

5th March 2018

## **Sexual Communication with a Child**

### **Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20180246**

#### **REQUEST**

*Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I'd like to request the following information:*

*How many offences of Sexual Communication with a Child were recorded by your police force in England and Wales between April 2017 when the law changed, and December 31 2017?*

*If possible, please could you provide a breakdown of method used by groomers (eg. Snapchat) in the recorded offences of Sexual Communication with a Child during the specified period?*

*If possible, please could you provide a breakdown of (a) how many boys and (b) how many girls were targeted by groomers in offences recorded during the specified period?*

#### **RESPONSE**

I approached our Data Returns Officer and Administrator for assistance with your request. The CMS system and Connect System is used to record complaints or allegations of those matters, which the Home Office specify should be recorded as 'crimes'.

She conducted a search of the two crime management systems. (CMS - our legacy system which provides data up to 4th December 2017 and our new CONNECT system which records crimes from that date onwards) For FOI requests such as this, we access the two separate systems and the retrieval and data extraction varies dependant on the search capabilities and the inputted data.

The information you receive therefore may be in two different formats depending on your time parameters, and the data we can provide which will be dependent on the search capabilities of each system. All our systems are designed and used first and foremost for Policing Purposes.

She provided me with the enclosed spreadsheet and the following explanation of her search criteria:

*I have included a count of all offences recorded under the Home Office offence class – Sexual Grooming where the offence was recorded on the CMS crime register between 01-Jan-2017 and 04-Dec-2017 or the CONNECT between 05-Dec-2017 and 31-Dec-2017.*

*Please note – the only way to establish 'the method used by the groomers' would be a free text search of the circumstances of offence free text field, therefore the requester would have to specify which communication methods\social media they are interested in, they have only specified SNAP CHAT, 3 of the offences recorded on CMS mention SNAP CHAT*

SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE  
COUNT OF THE SPECIFIED OFFENCES RECORDED ON THE CMS CRIME REGISTER  
WHERE THE OFFENCE WAS RECORDED BETWEEN 01-JAN-2017 AND 04-DEC-2017

OF THE OFFENCE 'ENGAGE IN SEXUAL COMMUNICATION WITH A CHILD', THE BELOW IS A BREAKDOWN OF THE GENDER OF THE VICTIM  
PLEASE NOTE - 5 OFFENCES WERE RECORDED WITHOUT A VICTIM

| OFFENCE RECORDED   | 2017 |
|--|------|
| ENGAGE IN SEXUAL COMMUNICATION WITH A CHILD  | 25   |
| MEETING A FEMALE CHILD FOLLOWING SEXUAL GROOMING ETC. (OFFENDER AGED 18 OR OVER AND VICTIM UNDER 16) | 30   |
| MEETING A MALE CHILD FOLLOWING SEXUAL GROOMING ETC. (OFFENDER IS 18 OR OVER AND VICTIM IS UNDER 16)  | 7    |

| GENDER | Count |
|--------|-------|
| FEMALE | 16    |
| MALE   | 4     |

OF THE ABOVE, THE FOLLOWING NUMBER OF OFFENCE WERE RECORDED WITH AN ATTEMPT FLAG

| OFFENCE RECORDED   | 2017 |
|--|------|
| MEETING A FEMALE CHILD FOLLOWING SEXUAL GROOMING ETC. (OFFENDER AGED 18 OR OVER AND VICTIM UNDER 16) | 4    |

SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE  
COUNT OF THE SPECIFIED OFFENCES RECORDED ON CONNECT  
WHERE THE OFFENCE WAS RECORDED BETWEEN 05-DEC- 2017 AND 31-DEC-2017

OF THE OFFENCE 'ENGAGE IN SEXUAL COMMUNICATION WITH A CHILD', THE BELOW IS A BREAKDOWN OF THE GENDER OF THE VICTIM  
PLEASE NOTE - 5 OFFENCES WERE RECORDED WITHOUT A VICTIM

| FULL OFFENCE TITLE  | Count |
|---|-------|
| Attempted - Meeting a female child following sexual grooming etc (Offender is aged 18 or over and victim is under 16) | 2     |
| Engage in sexual communication with a child   | 3     |
| Meeting a female child following sexual grooming etc (Offender is aged 18 or over and victim is under 16)             | 1     |

| GENDER | Count |
|--------|-------|
| FEMALE | 3     |
| MALE   | 0     |