

5th June 2019

Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20191099

REQUEST

Q1) How many crimes were recorded by the force in 2018 relating to the offence of 'attempting to meet a child following sexual grooming'?

Q2) How many PPA (people proceeded against) were recorded by the force in 2018 for the offence of 'attempting to meet a child following sexual grooming'? (outcomes)

Q3) How many of those cases in Q2 used evidence supplied by so called paedophile hunters?

RESPONSE

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

For FOI requests such as this, we access the system and the retrieval and data extraction varies greatly dependant on the search capabilities and the inputted data. All our systems are designed and used first and foremost for Policing Purposes and have limited search capability.

They were able to provide me with data to answer this request and I have manually checked each one for mention of either "paedophile hunters" or "paedophile hunter groups" The system does not have a specific field/flag which identifies where evidence comes from, but from my check 6 mention the above words.

The Administrator has provided the following explanation of her search:

I have provided a count of offences of HO Classification 088/01 and 008/02 recorded on CONNECT Crime between 01-JAN-2018 and 31-DEC-2018, broken down by Full Offence Title and offence outcome.

I have also provided record level data which includes the Initial MO field that you may wish to review in order to answer question 3. Due to spelling variations I have not been able to filter out "so called paedophile hunters".