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7th May 2019

Our Ref: FOI2019/02274

Dear Requestor

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2019/02274

I write in connection with your request for information received on 2nd April. I note you seek access to the following information:

1. **The number of recorded sexual offences against children aged under 18, for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018, broken down by age and gender of victims (by individual year of age where possible)**
2. **The number of recorded sexual offences against under 18s for the above time frame that had a cyber flag attached.**
3. **The number of recorded sexual offences against children aged under 18, for the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019, broken down by age and gender of victims (by individual year of age where possible)**
4. **The number of recorded sexual offences against under 18s for the above time frame that had a cyber flag attached.**

Please note, we are aware that changes to recording practice mean police are now able to flag offences where children have been sexually abused, however as the ONS notes "the data quality for these figures is variable across police forces" we would still like to be sent the actual number of sexual offences against children under 18 based on your records.

We are also aware that some data is published by the ONS about child sexual offences with a cyber flag. However this data only includes flags relating to specific offence codes, whereas we are interested in all sexual offences against under 18 year olds with a cyber flag.

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (The Act) to handle all requests in a manner that is blind to the identity of the requestor. Any information released in response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore, in the public domain without caveat.

RESPONSE - Following enquiries conducted by Bedfordshire Police please see our response in the tables below: -

Victims of Sexual Offences; Age under 18 years; Recorded between 1.4.2017 - 31.03.2019			
VICTIM GENDER / AGE	2017/2018	2018/2019	Grand Total
F	417	643	1060
0	5	6	11
1	2	2	4
2	6	12	18
3	4	13	17
4	8	20	28

5	14	19	33
6	9	22	31
7	17	29	46
8	20	18	38
9	17	15	32
10	21	27	48
11	24	35	59
12	34	42	76
13	53	87	140
14	55	92	147
15	63	99	162
16	31	58	89
17	34	47	81
M	83	139	222
0		1	1
1	1	1	2
2	2	1	3
3	1	2	3
4	5	8	13
5	9	9	18
6	2	9	11
7	2	5	7
8	3	7	10
9	4	19	23
10	5	10	15
11	6	9	15
12	6	18	24
13	7	12	19
14	15	10	25
15	9	8	17
16	3	4	7
17	3	6	9
(blank)		31	31
3		1	1
4		1	1
5		3	3
7		1	1
8		1	1
9		2	2
10		2	2
11		2	2
12		2	2
13		3	3
14		6	6
15		3	3
16		2	2

17		2	2
Grand Total	500	813	1313

Victims of Sexual Offences; Age under 18 years; Recorded between 1.4.2017 - 31.03.2019

CYBER CRIME/ VICTIM GENDER	2017/2018	2018/2019	Grand Total
N	420	778	1198
F	348	612	960
M	72	135	207
(blank)		31	31
Y	80	35	115
F	69	31	100
M	11	4	15
Grand Total	500	813	1313

The numerical data presented in this response is an un-audited snapshot of un-published data sourced from "live" systems and is subject to the interpretation of the original request by the individual extracting the data.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter please do not hesitate to contact me quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

Gary Maxey
Information Rights

Bedfordshire Police provides you the right to request an independent review of this response under its review procedure. If you require such a review you must notify us within two months from the date of this letter. After lodging a complaint with Bedfordshire Police if you are still dissatisfied with the decision you may make an application to the Information Commissioner. For information on how to make a complaint please visit their website at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/> or contact them on 0303 123 1113.