



James Hodson  
 Information Rights  
 Bedfordshire Police Headquarters,  
 Woburn Road, Kempston,  
 Bedford, MK43 9AX

Telephone: 01234 842547  
 Email: [foi@herts.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@herts.pnn.police.uk)

5th April 2018

Our Ref: FOI2018/01296

**REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2018/01296**

I write in connection with your request for information received on 9th March. I note you seek access to the following information:

**My request relates to the crime of sending a Sexual Message to a Child, its prevalence, and the other crimes recorded in connection with this crime.**

**In light of this:**

1. Please tell me the number of recorded offences under s.15A of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 recorded between April 3 2017 and October 3 2017.
2. (a) Please tell me the number of disposals under s.15A of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 recorded between April 3 2017 and January 3 2018.  
 (b) Please provide a bullet point list of the recorded offences recorded in connection with those disposals.
3. Please provide all the forms of communication (eg. text message, Whatsapp, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, Kik etc.) that have been recorded as having been used in connection with recorded offences under s.15A of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 between April 3 2017 and October 3 2017 and their prevalence.
4. Please tell me the age of the youngest victim identified in these recorded offences or recorded disposals over this time period.

**If any part of the request proves too time-consuming, I would prefer for you to answer just questions 1 and 2.**

**To be clear, I am only interested in offences under s.15A Sexual Communication with a Child, and I am \*not\* interested in offences under s.15 Meeting After Grooming.**

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.

Following enquiries within the Constabulary please see our response below.

**Response**

**Q1 – Please see the below table detailing the information you have requested.**

Month Recorded	Total
April	1
May	2
June	2
July	6
August	3
September	4

**Q2 – Please see the below table detailing the information you have requested.**

Outcome	September	October	November	December
Investigation	1	3	2	-
Other Agency Delegation	-	2	-	-

<b>Named</b>	<b>Suspect</b>	<b>Victim</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Unsupportive</b>						

**Q3** – Please see the below table detailing the information you have requested.

<b>Platform</b>	<b>Total</b>
Facebook	6
Snapchat	3
OoVoo	2
Instagram	2
Whatsapp	1
Various / Unspecified	4

**Q4** – The age of the youngest recorded victim during this period was 10.

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

James Hodson  
Information Rights

Hertfordshire Constabulary 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 Hertfordshire Constabulary 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.