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Our Ref: FOI2018/03872

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2018/03872

I write in connection with your request for information received on 16th July. I note you seek access to the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act I would like to obtain the following information relating to each year and covering the last five years of available records:

- **How many criminal charges have been brought for meeting a child following sexual grooming and all similar charges relating to the online grooming of children?**
- **Of those charges, how many resulted in prosecutions?**
- **Of those prosecutions, how many included evidence obtained by so called 'paedophile hunter' groups?**
- **How many overall prosecutions were successful?**
- **Of those prosecutions how many included evidence obtained by so called 'paedophile hunter' groups?**
- **How many of those successful prosecutions involved someone previously prosecuted for a child-grooming offence (repeat offenders)?**

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

Offences resulting in Charge

Year	Total	No. involving Paedophile Hunters
2013/14	3	-
2014/15	1	-
2015/16	4	1
2016/17	1	1
2017/18	3	2

Please note that the above table shows the number of charges/summonsed to court. Conviction/Prosecution data is recorded and held by the Crown Prosecution Service.

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.