



## Access to Public Information Request

**Date of receipt:** 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019

**Date of response:** 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019

### Request for information regarding sexual grooming

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#### Request:

I am requesting the following information under the Code of Practice for Access to Public Information:

Q1) How many crimes were recorded by the force in the listed years below 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 for the offence of 'attempting to meet a child following sexual grooming'?

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

Please could I have the details for the calendar years **2016, 2017, and 2018**.

#### Response:

Guernsey does not have the same legislation in force as the UK and therefore, we are unable to provide the information requested as this is not a specific offence. However, we would like to provide assurance that the issues are prosecuted against using other available offences such as indecent assault, harassment, telecommunications offences, and inciting a child to commit an act of gross indecency.

By way of background, Guernsey is currently updating the local sexual offences Law and will include this offence within the legislation. In 2011, the Home Department sought approval to modernise and reform sexual offences legislation in the Bailiwick, and included the following recommendations:

- To modernise and reform sexual offences legislation to provide a clear and coherent framework of offences; and

- To formalise and extend measures already in place to protect the public and reduce the risk posed to vulnerable member of the community.

The initial focus was on the second recommendation, which would protect the public and reduce the risk posed to vulnerable members of the community. This resulted in 2015 with the implementation of the Criminal Justice (Sex Offenders and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) law, 2013. This legislation put in place a robust system for the registration of sex offenders and introduced a range of preventative civil orders which protect the public by reducing the risk posed by those offenders and preventing the commission of further sexual offences.

The subsequent focus has been on drafting of the new Sexual Offences Law which updates current Bailiwick sexual offences legislation. The new Sexual Offences Law will provide appropriate modern substantive legislation to criminalise inappropriate sexual behaviour.

Further sexual offences have since been introduced in England and Wales and therefore, further examination of what should be included in the legislation was needed to ensure that these are appropriately captured in the new Law. The so-called “grooming” offence introduced by the Sexual Offences Act 2003 was in fact the offence of meeting a child after grooming. A new section of the Sexual Offences Act 2002 came into force in England and Wales - “sexual communication with a child” in April 2017.

The drafting of the legislation continues to be assessed as a high priority by the Committee *for* Home Affairs and reflected as such in the prioritisation of legislative drafting, the implications of Brexit and specifically, the pressure on drafting resources, has caused a delay.

These resources have now been put in place, and the next step is for the legislation to be submitted to the States of Deliberation. This will be supported by a Policy Letter, which will capture the developments which have occurred since the drafting of the original Policy Letter.