

## Access to Public Information Request

Date of receipt: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Date of response: 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020

### Request regarding sexual offences against children

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#### Request for information:

Good afternoon,

I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act:

- 1. The number of recorded sexual offences against children aged under 18, for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, 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.**

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.

#### Response

Thank you for your questions.

- 1. The number of recorded sexual offences against children aged under 18, for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, broken down by age and gender of victims (by individual year of age where possible)**

Guernsey Police have recorded 45 sexual crimes against children under 18 during the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 and are broken down as follows:

| <b>Age</b>         | <b>Female</b> | <b>Male</b> | <b>Grand Total</b> |
|--------------------|---------------|-------------|--------------------|
| <b>3</b>           | 3             | 0           | 3                  |
| <b>4</b>           | 1             | 0           | 1                  |
| <b>5</b>           | 1             | 0           | 1                  |
| <b>6</b>           | 1             | 0           | 1                  |
| <b>13</b>          | 3             | 0           | 3                  |
| <b>14</b>          | 11            | 3           | 14                 |
| <b>15</b>          | 10            | 0           | 10                 |
| <b>16</b>          | 4             | 2           | 6                  |
| <b>17</b>          | 5             | 1           | 6                  |
| <b>Grand Total</b> | <b>39</b>     | <b>6</b>    | <b>45</b>          |

**2. The number of recorded sexual offences against under 18s for the above time frame that had a cyber flag attached.**

None of the above 45 sexual crimes had a cyber flag as per the HOCR definition - Online flag definition: An offence where the reporting officer believes that on the balance of probability, the offence was committed, in full or in part, through a computer, computer network or other computer-enabled device.

A new Sexual Offences Law will incorporate offences such as online grooming. Currently these types of offences are investigated under other Laws such as Mis-use of Telecommunications Law.