

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) Request 44/18 - Sexting U18

Under the Freedom of Information Act I request:-

Can you please tell me the number of children under the age of 18 who have been investigated in the last two years by your force for "sexting" activities – that is sending or sharing explicit or naked pictures of themselves on social media or text messaging services to others. I just want information from the past two years. Can you please separate the information so it is clear which is the most recent 12 months? Jan-Dec 2016 and Jan-Dec 2017.

In each case please state:

- 1) The age of the child at the time of the offence and their gender
- 2) The outcome, ie. no further action, police caution, charged, ongoing
- 3) The medium used to send explicit content (for example: text message, Twitter, Facebook)
- 4) Whether the child who sent the material was added to the sex offenders's register.
- 5) If possible please include the age of the recipient of the explicit material as well as the sender.

I am aware that you will not record specific offences under the category "sexting". I believe the most appropriate offences to search within is distributing or publishing an indecent image(s) of a child under s1 of the Protection of Children Act, 1978. It would then require a search within those offences or reported offences carried out by children to isolate those cases in which a child sent an image of themselves to another person.

1)

Age of Suspect		
	2016	2017
13	2	0
14	3	2
15	1	1
16	0	2
17	1	1
Total	7	6

2)

Outcome of Investigation		
	2016	2017*
Enquiries Incomplete	0	1
No Further Action	6	3
Youth Conditional Caution	1	3
Total	7	7

Note that in 2017 one person has been investigated twice for two different incidents

3)

Medium Used		
	2016	2017
Facebook	1	3
Snapchat	3	3
Xbox	0	1
Not Known	3	0

4) No suspects were added to the sex offenders register

5)

Age of Recipient		
	2016	2017
12	1	1
13	4	2
14	1	1
15	0	1
16	0	1
33	0	1
Not Known	1	0