



Ministry  
of Defence Police

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Our Ref: eCase: FOI2017/02571 RFI:58/17  
Date: 21 March 2017

[REDACTED]  
By email – [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: SEXTING IN UNDER 18s**

We refer to your email dated 22 February 2017, which was acknowledged on the 23 February 2017.

In your email you requested the following information:

**“The number of children under the age of 18 who have been investigated in the last three 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. Please provide figures for the most recent 12-year periods available.**

**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, WhatsApp, 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”**

A search for information has now been completed and I can confirm that some information within the scope of your request is held. Please see response below:-

**1 April 2014-31 March 2015 – 0**

**1 April 2015-31 March 2016 – 0**

**1 April 2016-To date – 2 (linked offences)**

**Please note the information below shows two victims and two offenders, however the information is related as each sent explicit material to the other.**

**1. The age of the child at the time of the offence and their gender**

One 15 year old female sender, one 15 year old male sender

**2. The outcome, ie. no further action, police caution, charged, ongoing.**

Community Resolution Order issued to both offenders

**3. The medium used to send explicit content (for example: text message, WhatsApp, Twitter, Facebook)**

Text Message

**4. Whether the child who sent the material was added to the sex offenders’s register.**

No

**5. If possible please include the age of the recipient of the explicit material as well as the sender.**

One 15 year old male recipient, one 15 year old female recipient.

If you are not satisfied with this response or wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor Zone D, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB (email [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate the case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website (<http://www.ico.org.uk>).

Yours sincerely

**MDP Sec Data Protection and Freedom of Information Office**