



Ministry of Defence Police

Freedom of Information Manager

Ministry of Defence Police

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Our Ref: eCase: FOI 2022/00988

RFI: 0021/22

Date: 18 February 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: ONLINE GROOMING.

We refer to your email dated 24th January 2022 to the Ministry of Defence Police which was acknowledged on 24th January 2022.

We are treating your email as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000).

In your email you requested the following information:

I am writing to request information regarding cases of the online grooming, or sexual exploitation, of children on video-sharing platforms (VSPs) that have been reported to your police force between 1 January 2017 and 24 January 2022 . Examples of VSP include, but are not limited to: Twitch; TikTok; Facebook Watch, and IGTV. Please provide me with the following:

- By calendar year (or by year and month if possible) the number of all reports to the police force of child grooming/exploitation, broken down by VSP. If possible, please also break this down by age and gender;**
- By calendar year (or by year and month if possible) the outcome of all reports to the police force of child grooming/exploitation, broken down by VSP. For example, the outcome could be: referred to NCA/CEOP; report closed (e.g. insufficient evidence); arrest made etc. If possible, please also break this down by age and gender.**

A search for information has now been completed by the Ministry of Defence Police and I can confirm that we do hold information in scope of your request.

I am writing to request information regarding cases of the online grooming, or sexual exploitation, of children on video-sharing platforms (VSPs) that have been reported to your police force between 1 January 2017 and 24 January 2022 .

Examples of VSP include, but are not limited to: Twitch; TikTok; Facebook Watch, and IGTV. Please provide me with the following:

• By calendar year (or by year and month if possible) the number of all reports to the police force of child grooming/exploitation, broken down by VSP. If possible, please also break this down by age and gender;

From 3rd August 2021 to 25th January 2021 :

October 2021: 1 Case, Female, age 12-15. Snapchat

• By calendar year (or by year and month if possible) the outcome of all reports to the police force of child grooming/exploitation, broken down by VSP. For example, the outcome could be: referred to NCA/CEOP; report closed (e.g. insufficient evidence); arrest made etc. If possible, please also break this down by age and gender.

1 Case – Informal resolution

Please note that due to a technical fault we can currently only access data from 3rd August 2021 onwards.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk).

Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

MDP Secretariat and Freedom of Information Office