

Request Reference: 2572/15

For 2013, 2014 and 2015 (to date):

1a. How many cases of internet grooming (of a child or young person) has your police force investigated?

See Table 1

In each case, please state:

c. Age of child

See Table 2

d. Age of suspect (where known)

See Table 3

e. Summary of incident

See Table 4

f. Was an arrest/charge made

See Table 5

g. Please state the computer programme used to contact the child. Please note this could be a social media messaging service, app or chatroom, e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Whatsapp, Blendr, etc.

See Table 6

TABLE 1

Count of Home Office Code 88/1 and 88/2 offences where the MO notes suggest that the offence was internet/online related:

Year	Total
2013	12
2014	6
2015*	7
Grand Total	25

*to 16 July 2015

TABLE 2

Count of Home Office Code 88/1 and 88/2 offences where the MO notes suggest that the offence was internet/online related, by Victim Age:

Victim Age	Year			Total
	2013	2014	2015*	
Under 10	-	1	-	1
10 to 12	9	4	2	15
13 and Over^	2	1	2	5
Not Recorded	1	-	3	4
Grand Total	12	6	7	25

*to 16 July 2015

^Please note, one case included within the 13 and over age group in 2013 does not relate to a victim within this age range. However it was recorded within this range and is therefore included as such.

TABLE 3

Count of Home Office Code 88/1 and 88/2 offences where the MO notes suggest that the offence was internet/online related, by Suspect or Defendant Age:

Suspect or Defendant Age	Year			Total
	2013	2014	2015*	
Under 20	2	-	-	2
20 to 24	1	2	-	3
25 to 29	4	-	1	5
30 to 34	1	-	3	4
35 to 39	1	2	-	3
40 to 44	-	1	1	2
45 to 49	2	-	-	2
50 to 54	1	-	-	1
Not Recorded	-	1	2	3
Grand Total	12	6	7	25

*to 16 July 2015

TABLE 4

Count of Home Office Code 88/1 and 88/2 offences where the MO notes suggest that the offence was internet/online related, by Offence:

Offence	Year			Total
	2013	2014	2015*	
88/1 - MEETING A FEMALE U16 FOLLOWING SEXUAL GROOMING, OFFENDER 18+	11	4	7	22
88/2 - MEETING A MALE U16 FOLLOWING SEXUAL GROOMING, OFFENDER 18+	1	2	-	3
Grand Total	12	6	7	25

*to 16 July 2015

TABLE 5

Count of Home Office Code 88/1 and 88/2 offences where the MO notes suggest that the offence was internet/online related and Outcome was 'Charge':

Year	Total
2013	6
2014	1
2015*	-
Grand Total	7

*to 16 July 2015

TABLE 6

Count of Home Office Code 88/1 and 88/2 offences where the MO notes suggest that the offence was internet/online related, by type of programme used:

Programme	Year			Total
	2013	2014	2015*	
facebook	3	3	3	9
facebook and twitter	1	-	-	1
facebook and various	1	-	-	1
facebook and whatsapp	2	-	-	2
facebook facetime	-	-	1	1
internet whatsapp	-	1	-	1
online	2	1	1	4
Plenty of Fish	1	-	-	1
social media	-	1	-	1
unknown	1	-	-	1
whatsapp	1	-	2	3
Grand Total	12	6	7	25

*to 16 July 2015

In addition to the information included in the tables above, West Midlands Police can neither confirm nor deny that it holds any other information relevant to this request, as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 23(5) Information supplied by, or concerning, certain Security Bodies

Section 23 is a class based absolute exemption and there is no requirement to consider the public interest in this case. Confirming or denying the existence of whether information is held would contravene the constrictions laid out with Section 23 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in that this stipulates a generic bar on disclosure of any information applied by, or concerning, certain Security Bodies.