

Request Reference: 389A/24

Could you provide me with the number of blackmail crimes, in each of the past three financial years (April 1 to March 31 - 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23) and the current financial year to date (April 1 2023 to date), where a webcam has been involved in some way, i.e. where either webcam, web cam, video or social media are mentioned in the summary of the report.

Could you provide a summary of each report, including outcome, and state whether the alleged victim was aged under 16, 16 to 18 or over 18.

Please could you also provide me with a count of the number of crimes recorded as threatening to/disclosing private images in each of the past three financial years (April 1 to March 31 - 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23) and the current financial year to date (April 1 2023 to date). Again, please provide information about outcomes for these and a breakdown by whether the alleged victim was aged under 16, 16 to 18 or over 18.

Search criteria re data table on following pages

Our search relates to offences within the Blackmail and Malicious Communications Offence Categories and asks specifically about data where references to: webcam, web cam, video or social media are mentioned.

In relation to threatening to/disclosing private images, this relates to two specific offences listed in our system, these are:

- Disclose or threats to disclose private sexual photographs/film with intent to cause distress
- Disclose private sexual photographs and films with intent to cause distress

For the purposes of this request both offences have been aggregated into the value 'threatening to/disclosing private images'.

'Attempted' offences have been excluded for all offence types.

'Text.Contains' searches were completed within the [Incident Summary] field for the following key words.

- Webcam
- Web cam
- Video
- Social media

Please note that reference to 'social media' within the [Incident Summary] field does not necessarily mean that a webcam was used for those incidents, the results therefore only illustrate the number of reports where these keywords were present for the above offences, including Blackmail.

Only data for the following period has been included: 1st April 2020 – 27th February 2024 (the latest relevant data point).

A small number of reports where a victim was listed did not provide an age, these have been categorised as "Age Not Provided".

Figures in the table were aggregated by {"Financial Year", "Offence Type", "Victim Age", "Outcome Code*"}:

TABLE

Offence Type	Victim Age	Outcome Code*	Financial Year			
			20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
Blackmail	16-18	-	0	0	0	1
Blackmail	16-18	OC1	0	1	0	0
Blackmail	16-18	OC14	1	2	8	8
Blackmail	16-18	OC15	1	3	3	2
Blackmail	16-18	OC16	2	2	1	4
Blackmail	16-18	OC18	7	28	43	36
Blackmail	16-18	OC20	0	0	1	0
Blackmail	16-18	OC3	1	0	0	0
Blackmail	Age Not Provided	OC16	0	0	0	1
Blackmail	Age Not Provided	OC18	3	1	1	1
Blackmail	Over 18	-	0	0	0	41
Blackmail	Over 18	OC1	7	0	1	0
Blackmail	Over 18	OC14	10	41	72	77
Blackmail	Over 18	OC15	14	28	24	25
Blackmail	Over 18	OC16	17	43	53	40
Blackmail	Over 18	OC18	232	357	381	385
Blackmail	Over 18	OC20	0	3	0	2
Blackmail	Over 18	OC9	0	1	0	0
Blackmail	Under 16	-	0	0	0	5
Blackmail	Under 16	OC14	0	3	4	8
Blackmail	Under 16	OC15	1	3	2	2
Blackmail	Under 16	OC16	1	3	2	5
Blackmail	Under 16	OC18	4	14	17	21
Blackmail	Under 16	OC20	0	0	1	0
Threatening to/disclosing private images	16-18	-	0	1	0	2
Threatening to/disclosing private images	16-18	OC14	1	2	2	0
Threatening to/disclosing private images	16-18	OC15	2	5	5	0
Threatening to/disclosing private images	16-18	OC16	5	13	5	1
Threatening to/disclosing private images	16-18	OC18	0	9	6	4
Threatening to/disclosing private images	16-18	OC20	1	0	0	0
Threatening to/disclosing private images	16-18	OC8	0	1	0	0
Threatening to/disclosing private images	Age Not Provided	OC15	0	0	1	0

Cont.

Offence Type	Victim Age	Outcome Code*	Financial Year			
			20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
Threatening to/disclosing private images	Age Not Provided	OC18	1	0	0	1
Threatening to/disclosing private images	Over 18	-	0	2	8	21
Threatening to/disclosing private images	Over 18	OC1	5	8	5	2
Threatening to/disclosing private images	Over 18	OC14	2	19	18	15
Threatening to/disclosing private images	Over 18	OC15	49	72	77	38
Threatening to/disclosing private images	Over 18	OC16	45	156	222	116
Threatening to/disclosing private images	Over 18	OC18	31	82	56	25
Threatening to/disclosing private images	Over 18	OC20	2	2	4	1
Threatening to/disclosing private images	Over 18	OC3	2	4	6	1
Threatening to/disclosing private images	Over 18	OC8	0	0	1	0
Threatening to/disclosing private images	Under 16	-	0	0	0	3
Threatening to/disclosing private images	Under 16	OC14	0	3	1	0
Threatening to/disclosing private images	Under 16	OC15	0	7	6	2
Threatening to/disclosing private images	Under 16	OC16	1	9	4	0
Threatening to/disclosing private images	Under 16	OC18	0	12	2	0
Threatening to/disclosing private images	Under 16	OC20	0	1	3	1
Total	Total	Total	448	941	1,046	897

* Detailed descriptions of each outcome type can be found in the Technical Annex published on the Home Office website:

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5d2ed6d140f0b64a7b5d4138/crime-outcomes-technical-annex-july19.pdf>