



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Freedom of Information Request Reference No: 01.FOI.20.014375

I note you seek access to the following information:

I am writing to request the following information from your Police force and the relevant National Cyber Crime agencies without your direct reach/scope or jurisdiction.

1. Please could you reveal how many crime reports of “revenge porn” or “image based sexual abuse” or “intimate image abuse” (distributing private sexual image of someone without their consent and with the intention of causing them distress) have been made since the 23rd March 2020. Please could you break down the numbers by weekly periods, if possible.
2. Please could you reveal how many people have been charged with the offence of “Revenge Porn” since the 23rd March 2020. Please break down this figure to show how many people received cautions.
3. Please could you break down the victims of “revenge porn” since the 23rd March 2020 by gender and into the following age groups 0-9, 10-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59 and 60+.
4. Please could you provide how many crime reports of “revenge porn” or “image based sexual abuse” or “intimate image abuse” (distributing private sexual image of someone without their consent and with the intention of causing them distress) have been made in the same complete period as you are able provide for question (1) for the years 2019, 2018 and 2017.

Please could you break down the victims of “revenge porn” during these periods by gender and into the following age groups 0-9, 10-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59 and 60+.

5. Please could you provide how many crime reports of “revenge porn” or “image based sexual abuse” or “intimate image abuse” (distributing private sexual image of someone without their consent and with the intention of causing them distress) have been made in the last 5 years, broken down by year.

DECISION

I have today decided to disclose the located information to you in full.

Please find attached information pursuant to your request above.

IMPORTANT:

- Please ensure that the Notes Page is read in conjunction with the data in this report to ensure that it is interpreted correctly.

INFORMATION

The MPS takes allegations regarding this abhorrent behaviour extremely seriously. At the heart of our investigation into all crimes are the victims – and we will always support and keep them as informed as we can about their case as it progresses. Where evidence is available and produces leads we do, and will continue to, follow them up robustly to secure a conviction.

We recognise the embarrassment and distress that being a victim of revenge porn may cause and this can often influence the decision to support a prosecution. Victims may feel the offender has achieved their aim if intimate pictures of them are disclosed more widely through the Criminal Justice procedure. Many offenders seek to take advantage of this, however where evidence is available to us, we will consider an unsupported prosecution. A careful balance needs to be struck between bringing offenders to justice and listening to the needs of the victim.

Where photographs are disclosed in the context of an ex-intimate partner who may be seeking to hurt their partner following the end of a relationship, the report will be flagged as domestic abuse. This investigation will then be dealt with by officers within one of our specialist Safeguarding units. The officers working in these teams have specialist training in relation to domestic abuse and supporting the needs of each and every victim.

Where the offence forms part of a course of conduct in relation to stalking, the offence will be overseen by our specialist Stalking Threat Assessment Centre.

We will continue to work with victims to ensure they receive the appropriate support and are kept safe.

We continue to urge anyone who believes they have been, or are a victim of revenge pornography to contact police. Crime prevention and personal safety advice is available from the Metropolitan Police website at www.met.police.uk.

I would like to thank you for your interest in the MPS.

Information Rights Unit

'Revenge Porn' (Disclosure of Image/Film Based Sexual Abuse)

For the periods 23/03-17/05 2017-2020

Protective Marking	OFFICIAL
Suitable for Publication Scheme	Yes
Ad-Hoc Reference Number	01/FOI/20/014375
FOIA/MOPAC Ref Number	01/FOI/20/014375
Summary	'Revenge Porn' (Disclosure of Image/Film Based Sexual Abuse) for the periods 23/03-17/05 2017-2020
Creating Branch / Directorate	MetHQ - Information and Insight
Date Created	21/05/2020
Review Date	21/05/2021

This report uses LIVE DATA extracted from: CRIS

Date Live data was extracted: 21/05/2020

Police forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide crime statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the crime data. It should be noted that for these reasons this force's response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you may receive.

Notes

Source System: The data in this report was extracted from the CRIS database on 21/05/2020.

Date Range: The report covers the period 23/03-17/05 for the years 2017-2020, where data is displayed by week. There is an additional summary for the calendar years 2015-2019. Data on Charges is displayed by month, although as this is only for the 23/3-17/05/2020 period, April 2020 is the only full month displayed and therefore this should be taken into consideration.

Definition: To establish 'Revenge Porn'/'Image Based Sexual Abuse'/'Intimate Image Abuse', the HO Code 008/71 ('Disclose private sexual photographs and films with intent to cause distress') was applied to the CRIS search conditions.

Caveats: The weekly intervals provided follow the 2020 calendar structure; therefore for the years 2017-19, intervals are seven days long yet may not follow the traditional Monday-Sunday structure that 2020 data follows. For ease of reading, the full HO Code definition will be displayed as 'Illegal Disclosure of Sexual Images/Films'.

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Offences of Illegal Disclosure of Sexual Images/Films for the period 23/03-17/05 2017-2020:

Recorded Year	Weekly Period	Total
2017	23-29/03/2017	8
	30/03-05/04/2017	9
	6-12/04/2017	8
	13-19/04/2017	8
	20-26/04/2017	7
	27/04-03/05/2017	7
	04-10/05/2017	8
	11-17/05/2017	8
2018	23-29/03/2018	7
	30/03-05/04/2018	7
	6-12/04/2018	7
	13-19/04/2018	6
	20-26/04/2018	11
	27/04-03/05/2018	9
	04-10/04/2018	12
	11-17/05/2018	12
2019	23-29/03/2019	12
	30/03-05/04/2019	26
	6-12/04/2019	9
	13-19/04/2019	12
	20-26/04/2019	10
	27/04-03/05/2019	9
	04-10/05/2019	8
	11-17/05/2019	18
2020	23-29/03/2020	12
	30/03-05/04/2020	14
	06-12/04/2020	16
	13-19/04/2020	14
	20-26/04/2020	24
	27/04-03/05/2020	22
	04-10/05/2020	23
	11-17/05/2020	12
Grand Total		375

Victims by Gender and Age Group for Illegal Disclosure of Sexual Images/Films for the above Weekly Periods 2017-2020:

Victim Gender	Victim Age Group	2017	2018	2019	2020	Grand Total
Female	0-9	0	0	1	0	1
	10-19	10	19	25	42	96
	20-29	24	34	39	41	138
	30-39	13	13	13	28	67
	40-49	1	4	2	6	13
	50-59	0	1	2	0	3
	60+	0	1	0	0	1
Female Total		48	72	82	117	319
Male	10-19	4	2	3	4	13
	20-29	6	3	15	9	33
	30-39	2	4	9	5	20
	40-49	1	3	1	2	7
	50-59	0	0	1	3	4
	60+	0	0	1	0	1
Male Total		13	12	30	23	78
Grand Total		61	84	112	140	397

People Proceeded Against for the Illegal Disclosure of Sexual Images/Films for the period 23/03-17/05/2020:

Proceedings Type	Mar	Apr	May	Grand Total
Caution - Adult	0	1	1	2
Charge / further charge	0	2	2	4
Postal Charge Requisition	1	0	0	1
Youth Caution	0	0	1	1
Grand Total	1	3	4	8

Offences of Illegal Disclosure of Sexual Images/Films for the calendar years 2015-2019:

Recorded Year	Count of Offences
2015	284
2016	328
2017	442
2018	564
2019	645
Grand Total	2263

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