National Police Chiefs' Council

National Police
Freedom of Information
and Data Protection Unit

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29/07/2026

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NUMBER: 2976/2026

Thank you for your request for information regarding data held on serious allegations, outcomes and false allegation classifications, which has now been considered.

Applicant Question:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please confirm whether the National Police Chiefs' Council holds, collates or has access to national statistics relating to allegations of:

- Child abuse (physical, emotional or sexual);
- Domestic abuse;
- Rape;
- Sexual assault;
- Serious violence against a family member or partner.

For each of the last five calendar years, please provide, where held:

1. The number of allegations reported to police.

2. The number resulting in charge.

3. The number resulting in no further action.

4. The number identified, recorded or classified as deliberately false, fabricated or malicious.

5. The number referred for consideration of offences such as Perverting the Course of Justice or Wasting Police Time.

6. I am seeking details of any national datasets, reports, statistical publications, management information, or other recorded information held by or on behalf of the NPCC relating to the outcomes of allegations reported to police, including but not limited to:

- allegations resulting in charge;

- allegations resulting in No Further Action (NFA);
- allegations determined to be unsubstantiated;
- allegations determined to be false;
- allegations withdrawn by the complainant;
- allegations where evidential thresholds were not met.

I am seeking any national-level data, reports, analysis, trends, or statistical breakdowns held in recorded form concerning the outcome of allegations investigated by police forces in England and Wales.

If the National Police Chiefs' Council does not hold this information, please confirm which elements are not held and identify any organisation or body that may hold the requested data.

Please also confirm whether there is any nationally agreed definition, recording standard or classification used by police forces in England and Wales for allegations determined to be deliberately false, fabricated or malicious.

NPCC Response:

The NPCC does hold some information captured by your request. The captured data has been provided below. Data considerations and caveats have been provided at the bottom of this letter.

Please note that for some data we only hold this by financial year. In accordance with our duty under section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we have provided the information in the format in which it is held.

I can confirm that the NPCC does hold, collate or have access to some national statistics relating to allegations of:

- Child abuse (physical, emotional or sexual);
- Domestic abuse;
- Rape;
- Sexual assault;

It does not collate specific national data relating to 'serious violence against a family member or partner'.

There is no nationally agreed definition, recording standard or classification used by police forces in England and for allegation to be deliberately false, fabricated or malicious.

Outside of the Freedom of Information Act, I can confirm that Police forces must follow the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) and the Home Office Crime Recording Rules (HOCR), which provide the national framework for crime recording in England and Wales. Where a report is shown to have been knowingly false, forces will cancel the initial crime and investigate substantive offences such as:

Wasting police time (s.5 Criminal Law Act 1967);

Perverting the course of justice;

Details of the full crime recording standards can be found below.

Home Office Crime Recording Rules for frontline officers, staff - GOV.UK

1. The number of allegations reported to police: *This data represents total police recorded offences for the various date ranges. This data is held by the NPCC in complete financial years.*

	Female victims only	Female victims only
	April 2018 - March 2019	**April 2022- March 2023**
Rape (victims age 10+, excluding CSAE)	35711	43622
Sexual Assault (victims age 10+, excluding CSAE)	36029	49238
Domestic Abuse flagged offences	512280	675098

	Female victims only	All victims	All victims
	August 2022 - March 2023	**April 2023 - March 2024**	**April 2024 - March 2025**
Rape (Victims 18+)	24624	40131	45004
Sexual assault (Victims 18+)	19954	37940	40267
Domestic Abuse flagged offences	396773	781319	777642
Child Abuse, Neglect and Abduction offences	N/A	N/A	34855

	2021/22 (Final Quarter Jan-Mar 2022 ONLY)	**2022/23**	**2023/24**	**2024/25**	**2025/26**
Child Sexual Abuse (All victims)	28236	109982	114332	126203	128619

2. The number resulting in charge. This data only highlights where a charge has been applied to offence that was recorded in the below date ranges. The NPCC does not collate outcomes data based on outcome date, therefore this will not be total number of charges applied within the timeframe.

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Charges					
	April 2018 - March 2019	**April 2022-March 2023**			
Sexual Offences (includes rape and sexual assault, but also wider offences (e.g. exposure, sexual activity), female victims age 10+ only)	4484	6739			
	All victims	All victims			
	April 2023 - March 2024	**April 2024 - March 2025**			
Rape (Victims 18+)	1469	1642			
Sexual assault (Victims 18+)	2377	2718			
Domestic Abuse flagged offences	53994	46146			
Child Abuse, Neglect and Abduction offences	N/A	125			
	2021/22 (Final Quarter Jan-Mar 2022 ONLY)	**2022/23**	**2023/24**	**2024/25**	**2025/26**
Child Sexual Abuse (All victims)	283	1473	2383	2618	2963

3. The NPCC holds some data relevant to 'NFA' outcome. The below data is held relevant to allegations withdrawn by the complainant – Figures show where outcome codes 14 and 16 (both relate to victim not supporting further action) have been applied. As at point 2, the NPCC does not collate outcomes data based on outcome date, therefore this will not be total number of charges applied within the timeframe.

Victim does not support					
	April 2018 - March 2019	**April 2022-March 2023**			
Sexual Offences (includes rape and sexual assault, but also wider offences (e.g. exposure, sexual activity), female victims age 10+ only)	34523	48081			
	All victims	All victims			

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	April 2023 - march 2024	April 2024 - March 2025			
Rape (Victims 18+)	21044	19628			
Sexual assault (Victims 18+)	14347	14405			
Domestic Abuse flagged offences	413372	331187			
Child Abuse, Neglect and Abduction offences	N/A	444			
	2021/22 (Final Quarter Jan-Mar 2022 ONLY)	**2022/23**	**2023/24**	**2024/25**	**2025/26**
Child Sexual Abuse (All victims)	2215	10681	13544	13383	13637

No other national data is held by the NPCC. A consideration for you is to make a request with individual police forces in relation to their own up-to-date, locally held data.

Unfortunately, I do not hold a public facing list of force FOI contact details, however they will be available here.

You can send a request to multiple forces by way of one email, with each force having a lawful responsibility under the Act to respond to you.

In further wishing to assist you, further crime outcome data is available via the Home Office website below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2023-to-2024/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-technical-annex

Data Considerations/Caveats:

Total offences

Domestic abuse, rape and sexual assault: *Performance data is used for the figures for 2018/19 and 2022/23 as VKPP did not collect data these dates. Performance data aligns with previous NPCC VAWG definition, female victims aged 10+.*

Performance data figures for rape and sexual assault exclude specific child sexual abuse & exploitation offences (CSAE).

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Domestic abuse, rape and sexual assault: *Data for 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26 was collected by VKPP. In 2023/24, domestic abuse data relates to offences involving female victims aged 10+, while rape and sexual assault data relates to female victims aged 18+ to avoid overlap with child sexual abuse offences. In 2024/25 and 2025/26, data includes all victims regardless of age or gender. Rape and sexual assault figures remain restricted to victims aged 18+ to avoid overlap with child sexual abuse offences.*

Data for 2023/24 is not a full financial year, data is for offences recorded August 2023 - March 2024.

Outcome data

For all outcome data, not all offences reported will have a finalised investigation at point of data capture, we have only included figures with an outcome attached to the offence.

Performance data is used for the figures for 2018/19 and 2022/23 as VKPP did not collect data these dates. Performance data aligns with previous NPCC VAWG definition, female victims aged 10+. We are unable to breakdown outcome data for rape and sexual assault, and have included outcome data for sexual offences as a whole, including rape, sexual assault, exposure & voyeurism, sexual activity offences and other sexual offences.

Domestic abuse, rape and sexual assault: *Data for 2024/25 and 2025/26 was collected by VKPP, and includes all victims, regardless of age or gender. For rape and sexual assault, outcomes relate to offences involving all victims aged 18+ to avoid overlap with child sexual abuse offences. We did not collected outcomes data for the period August 2023-March 2024.*

Child sexual abuse: *outcomes have been provided for 4 financial years, **d**ata for 2021/22 if for final Quarter Jan-Mar 2022 only.*

The data provided is from police-recorded crimes, submitted by each force on a quarterly basis and relates to information recorded within a crime at a moment in time. Due to complex nature of CSAE many investigations were still under investigation at the time of collection. For official stats on closed crimes there is openly available data: Crime outcomes in England and Wales statistics - GOV.UK

Caution should be used for any direct comparisons as a new National CSAE data collection was implemented and strengthened in 2023, which included the addition of British Transport Police and City of London Police data.

Data may not have been available from certain forces for periods of time due to changes in force recording systems.

2026 Q1 (Jan-Mar) data was not available from Gloucestershire Police.

2023 January - September data was not available from Devon and Cornwall Police

2023 April - June data was not available from Dyfed-Powys Police

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Officer & Decision Maker

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COMPLAINT RIGHTS

Internal Review

Any request for an internal review will be acknowledged and responded to, based on the specific wording of your initial request only.

We ask that any rationale to request an internal review, does not include any requests for new information and ask that these be submitted by separate email. We will acknowledge as a new request and may aggregate to your initial request in compliance with the legislation.

If you are dissatisfied with the response you have been provided with in compliance with the Freedom of Information legislation, you can lodge a complaint with NPCC to have the decision reviewed within 40 working days of the date of this response.

The handling of your request will be looked at by someone independent of the original decision and a fresh response provided.

It would be helpful, if requesting a review, for you to articulate in detail the reasons you are not satisfied with this reply.

If you would like to request a review, please write or send an email to NPCC Freedom of Information, c/o PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire, PO14 9FS.

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Annex A

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the NPCC, when refusing to provide information by way of exemption in question and (c) states why the exemption applies. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a refusal notice to those aspects of your request.

Legislation – Section 16

(1) It shall be the duty of a public authority to provide advice and assistance, so far as it would be reasonable to expect the authority to do so, to persons who propose to make, or have made, requests for information to it.

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