



Crown Prosecution Service HQ
102 Petty France
Westminster
SW1H 9EA

Jeremy Malcolm

By email: jeremy@c4osl.org

9 October 2025

Our ref: **FOIA 13596**

Dear Jeremy Malcolm,

RE: Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOIA) request which we received on 23 September 2025.

Section 1 of the FOIA gives you the right to know whether we hold the information you want and to have it communicated to you, subject to any exemptions which may apply. It is a public disclosure regime, not a private regime. This means that any information disclosed under the FOIA, by definition, becomes available to the wider public.

Request

Please provide statistics on prosecutions and convictions for possession of ‘indecent images of children’ (Criminal Justice Act 1988, s.160) and ‘prohibited images of children’ (Coroners and Justice Act 2009, s.62), disaggregated by offence type, for the years 2010–2025.

Response

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) holds some information relating to your request.

The CPS does not, however, maintain a central record of case outcomes. To establish this information a manual review of each case would be required.

As an example, for the years 2010 to 2025, there were over 21,000 cases where offences under section 160 of the Criminal Justice Act or section 62 Coroners and Justice Act 2009 that reached a first hearing at a magistrate’s court.

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Section 12(1) of the FOIA confirms public authorities are not obliged to comply with a request for information if it estimates the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit.

[The appropriate limit for central government is set at £600.](#) This means that the appropriate limit will be exceeded if it would require more than 24 hours work in determining whether the CPS holds the information, and locating, retrieving, and extracting the information.

We believe that the cost manually reviewing, at minimum, 21,000 cases would exceed the appropriate limit. Consequently, we are not obliged to comply with your request.

Under section 16 of the FOIA we have an obligation to advise what, if any, information may assist you with your request.

Data were collated to present the number of offences that were charged under s160 of the Criminal Justice Act or s62 Coroner and Justice Act 2009 that reached a first hearing at a magistrate's court.

Relevant information is found in the attachment labelled '**FOI 13596 – Attachment 1**'. When considering the data please note the supplied caveats.

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) publishes quarterly statistics on activity in the criminal justice system. These statistics include the number of convictions and sentence per offence type.

The statistics are published at gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-justice-statistics

Alternatively, a request may be made directly to data.access@justice.gov.uk.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to request an internal review by responding in writing to the address below within two months of the date of this response. The internal review will be handled by a member of CPS staff who has not been involved with your original request.

IAT@cps.gov.uk

Information Access Team
Floor 8
102 Petty France
London **SW1H 9EA**

You do have the right to ask the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) to investigate any aspect of your complaint. Please note, however, that the ICO is likely to expect internal complaints procedures to have been exhausted before beginning their investigation.

The ICO asks that complaints are submitted via their online portal at ico.org.uk/foicomplaints.

Alternatively, you may contact the ICO at:

Information Commissioner's Office

OFFICIAL

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire **SK9 5AF**

icocasework@ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Miss A Cavallo
Associate Corporate Knowledge & Information Manager
HQ Digital and Information Directorate
Crown Prosecution Service

OFFENCES CHARGED UNDER S160 OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT 1988 OR S62 OF CORONERS AND JUSTICE ACT 2009 THAT REACHED A 1ST HEARING AT THE MAGISTRATES COURT

Financial Year	S160 Criminal Justice Act 1988 Offences	S62 Coroners and Justice Act 2009 Offences	Total Offences
2010-2011	4,543	21	4,564
2011-2012	3,885	179	4,064
2012-2013	3,849	394	4,243
2013-2014	4,265	534	4,799
2014-2015	4,820	631	5,451
2015-2016	5,248	625	5,873
2016-2017	5,141	971	6,112
2017-2018	2,357	769	3,126
2018-2019	1,568	729	2,297
2019-2020	1,372	729	2,101
2020-2021	1,313	667	1,980
2021-2022	1,937	921	2,858
2022-2023	1,737	923	2,660
2023-2024	1,798	1,020	2,818
2024-2025	2,119	1,282	3,401

Data Source: CPS Case Management Information System

CAVEATS & DEFINITIONS

Offence Caveats

1. Offences recorded in the Management Information System Offences Universe are those which reached a hearing. There is no indication of final outcome or if the charged offence was the substantive charge at finalisation.
2. Data relates to the number of offences recorded in magistrates' courts, in which a prosecution commenced, as recorded on the Case Management System.
3. Offences data are not held by defendant or outcome.
4. Offences recorded in the Offences Universe of the MIS are those which were charged at any time and reached at least one hearing. This offence will remain recorded whether or not that offence was proceeded with and there is no indication of final outcome or if the offence charged was the substantive offence at finalisation.

General CPS Data Caveats

1. CPS data are available through its Case Management System (CMS) and associated Management Information System (MIS). The CPS collects data to assist in the effective management of its prosecution functions. The CPS does not collect data that constitutes official statistics as defined in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007.

2. These data have been drawn from the CPS's administrative IT system, which (as with any large scale recording system) is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the CPS. We are committed to improving the quality of our data and from mid-June 2015 introduced a new data assurance regime which may explain some unexpected variance in some future data sets.
3. The official statistics relating to crime and policing are maintained by the Home Office (HO) and the official statistics relating to sentencing, criminal court proceedings, offenders brought to justice, the courts and the judiciary are maintained by the Ministry of Justice (MOJ).