

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Address for correspondence

29 June 2026

Dear

HMICS Freedom of Information Response – FOI.26.00015

I refer to your request dated 09th June 2026, under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA), for the following information:

'I am requesting:

- 1. The number of HMICS inspections of Police Scotland since 2013 in which the inspection report recorded concerns, or recommendations relating to child sexual exploitation in each year between 2013 and 2025.*
- 2. The data returns and documents submitted by each Public Protection Chief Officer Group to HMICS during Phase 1 of the national review of group-based CSAE, or, where those returns cannot be disclosed in full, a summary of the aggregate findings drawn from them.*
- 3. Any interim analysis, summary, or assessment prepared by HMICS of the Phase 1 data returns.*
- 4. Any analysis or assessment prepared by HMICS of the adequacy of data recording systems used by Police Scotland or other public protection partners in relation to child sexual exploitation, since 2013.'*

- 1) All copies of HMICS inspection reports are available to view on our website [Publications | HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland](#).
- 2) This is a formal notice under section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 that the information requested is not held by HMICS.
- 3) The National review of group-based child sexual abuse and exploitation is a joint review being conducted with three other scrutiny bodies and the information is currently still being compiled. This is a formal notice under section 27(1) that the information is intended for future publication. Exemption 27(1) is subject to the 'public interest test'

The arguments in favour of disclosing the information are:

- It is Freedom of Information good practice to release the information held in the spirit of transparency
- There is considerable interest in the content of the report.

The arguments against disclosing the information are:

- This review was formally requested under section 115 of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 by the then Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, Jenny Gilruth and our statutory obligation requires that the report is provided to Scottish Ministers in advance of publication.

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- Our process requires that the report is laid before parliament prior to publication.
- The assessment of returns is still in progress and disclosing the information at this stage may present a misleading picture of a high profile review.

Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exemption.

4) HMICS has completed the following inspections which considered the adequacy of Police Scotland's data recording systems:

[Strategic review of Police Scotland's response to online child sexual abuse | HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland](#)

[Crime audit 2020 | HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland](#)

We have also completed joint inspections with the Care Inspectorate of services for children and young people:

[Strategic scrutiny reports | Care Inspectorate](#)

I trust this information is satisfactory for you, however, if you are unhappy with this response you may ask us to carry out an internal review, by writing to the address shown on this letterhead or by emailing HMIC@hmic.gov.scot. Your request should explain why you wish a review to be carried out and should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter. We will then reply within 20 working days of receipt of any such letter.

You then have a right of appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner if you are dissatisfied with our internal review. The Commissioners website has a guide containing the full details for this process (www.itspublicknowledge.info) or they can be contacted via the following:

Scottish Information Commissioner

Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
Fife
KY16 9DS
Tel: 01334 464 610

Yours Sincerely,

