



84%

Online grooming crimes have risen by more than 80% in four years.

The NSPCC have obtained figures which show online grooming crimes recorded by the police continue to climb and have jumped by more than 80% in four years.

27,000

Data from 41 UK police forces shows an 84% rise since 2017/18, taking the total to more than 27,000 offences since 2017.

6,156

In 2021/22, there were 6,156 Sexual Communication with a Child offences, an increase on the previous year and almost 120 offences per week on average.

82%

Four in five (82%) of grooming cases last year, where the gender was known, were against girls, with 12 to 15 year old girls making up 39% of all victims, where the age and gender was recorded.



 **Meta**
 **Snap Inc.**

Meta-owned platforms were used in 38% of offences where the means of communication was known. However, Snapchat was used by groomers more than any other platform, in a third of offences where a site was recorded (33%).

70 APPS

Grooming is increasingly becoming a cross-platform problem, with police recording 70 different apps and games involved in grooming crimes in the last 12 months alone. Multiple social media sites were often used in the same offence.

NSPCC

Sir Peter Wanless,
NSPCC Chief Executive:

“Online grooming is taking place at unprecedented levels and only concerted action will turn the tide on this tsunami of preventable abuse.”

Visit www.nspcc.org.uk to learn how you can help end child abuse online.