| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2202  Responded to: 21st September 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**I am interested in gambling related fraud/coercion where individuals have been targeted by others in order to take advantage of their betting accounts or identity to place bets. I am currently attempting to understand the specific characteristics and vulnerabilities of victims so education and interventions can be better targeted.**

**Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information.**

**• Individual-level / Granular data (e.g., where each row of a spreadsheet/table represents an anonymised crime report):**

**• Report dates of reports where victims have been targeted to place bets or their details/accounts have been used by others. I.e., fraudulently (date victim reported crime, "any format")**

**• Offence dates/periods (e.g., time periods where the crime was said to have taken place - “example: 01/09/2019 – 01/03/2020”)**

**• Charge status ("yes/no")**

**• Criminal justice outcome ("any format")**

**• Victim characteristics (for example: age, sex, physical and mental/psychological health data, living status, etc. As much information as possible would be very useful here.)**

**• Offender characteristics (As much information as possible would be very useful here.)**

Having considered your request in terms of the above Act, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

As such, and in terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

By way of explanation, Police Scotland record crimes using the Scottish Government Justice Department crime classification codes and are not thereafter sub-categorised.

In this instance, I’m afraid that there is no offence classification specific to the circumstances outlined in your request. Such offences would be recorded under the more general classification Fraud.

The only way to determine whether any reports were relevant to your request, would be to carry out case by case assessment of all Fraud related crime reports.

The most recent published figures show that for the 2022/23 financial year, there were 16,879 recorded crimes of Fraud. As each of these reports as a minimum would require reviewing this would be an exercise which would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulation.

If you require any further assistance please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.