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Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0331
Date: 28 February 2022



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

We would like to know what Police Scotland's data shows about fraud in Scotland between January 2021 and December 2021. In particular, we request the following data please, ideally in an excel format:

- 1. Total number of fraud reports from individuals (not businesses) to Police Scotland in 2021.**
- 2. A table of fraud reports by fraud type (or fraud code if Police Scotland uses codes similar to Action Fraud)**
- 3. A table showing reported losses for each fraud type**
- 4. A table showing the number of fraud reports for each fraud type broken down by age and location**

Having considered these questions in terms of the 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.

Firstly, I would advise that, Police Scotland record crimes using the Scottish Government Justice Department (SGJD) crime classification codes and fraud offences are categorised under general [offence classification codes](#).

By way of explanation, the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to read through each and every report of fraud for the time period specified, to identify the type of fraud, determine losses, ascertain ages and locations - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations

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By way of assistance however, statistics for fraud offences are available on the Police Scotland website, via the following link:-

[Our performance - Police Scotland](#)

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management quoting the reference number given.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions.

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.