| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-0998  Responded to: 2nd May 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I would like to request the following information regarding fraud crime figures - specific to those classed as 'scams' (either online or on the phone).

## My questions are as follows:

## Please confirm the number of criminal reports your force has received of fraud (specific to online or telephone scams) for the years 2020, 2021 and 2022.

In response to this question, 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 online or telephone fraud as 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 potentially relevant crime reports.

To illustrate, [published figures](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/) show that for the 2021/22 financial year, there were 16, 536 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 Regulations.

## Please confirm how many Police Officers are/previously have been assigned to manage criminal reports of fraud (specific to online or telephone scams) for the years 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Whilst Police Scotland has a dedicated economic crime unit, all officers can be involved in the investigation of fraud generally and specifically online etc.

As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

## Please confirm the number of criminal convictions your force has achieved for fraud (specific to online or telephone scams) for the years 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Police Scotland does not hold conviction information. As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

You may wish to contact the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscals Service (COPFS) which holds conviction information for Scotland. A request can be submitted to COPFS via email using the following address [foi@copfs.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:foi@copfs.gsi.gov.uk)

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.