

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1340  
Date: 11 July 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.

**The number of reported cases of fraud linked to dating apps from January 1, 2017, until the most recent date figures are available.**

**During the same period, the number of reported cases of blackmail in which users have been threatened with having explicit photos published if they do not perform some kind of sexual favour.**

**In both cases, I would like a breakdown of:**

- **the specific app used (such as Tinder, Grindr, or Hinge)**
- **the nature of the fraud or blackmail**
- **the sexes/ages of the victims**
- **the dates of the reports**
- **what the result of the report was**

Having considered your request 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.

By way of explanation, the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to manually examine each and every potentially relevant crime report to establish the circumstances - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

To illustrate, the most recent published figures show that for the 2021/22 financial year, there were 912 recorded crimes of threatening/disclosure of intimate image and 16, 536 of fraud. There are no relevant markers which allow the automatic retrieval of the level of information contained in your request.

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You may be interested in our published crime statistics: [How we are performing - Police Scotland](#)

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee at [foidundee@scotland.police.uk](mailto:foidundee@scotland.police.uk) 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.police.uk](mailto:foi@scotland.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](mailto: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.

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