| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-3056  Responded to: 03 December 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## How many reports of Romance Fraud have you received from people in Scotland over from six years? Please can you break this down to each year? For this year, please use the data up until the date you receive this application.

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 romance fraud as outlined in your request. Such offences could be recorded under more general classifications such as Fraud, Threats & Extortion, Disclosure of Images etc.

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, the most recent [published figures](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/) show that for the 2023/24 financial year, there were 16,778 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

## Separately, for the same time period, please can you give me a breakdown of people in Scotland who have reported to you falling victim to social media AI scams – for example have been duped by a deepfake video? Please can you also break this down per year, as requested previously?

In response to your request, I would like to clarify that Section 2 of the Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2016 became effective on 3 July 2017.

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 information you have requested would be recorded in the content of a crime report and cannot be electronically extracted. The only way to provide this information would be to physically examine each of the crime reports and extract any relevant information. This is an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

To be of assistance, you can access our published crime statistics via the following link: [How we are performing - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/) - Group 2 offences.

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.