

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2089
Date: 19 October 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.

I would like to request a breakdown of reports of rental fraud in Scotland please. I am looking for the following.

- number of rental fraud reports for individual victims each month (broken down by month) from January 2017 to September 2022, both inclusive if possible.

Amended to - split by local authority area

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, offences in Scotland are categorised using the Scottish Government Justice Department crime classification codes. Offences such as those in your request, would fall under the general classification of Fraud and not thereafter sub-categorised into rental. Therefore the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to manually examine each and every fraud crime report to establish the specifics.

To illustrate in the financial year, 2021/22, there were 16, 536 recorded Fraud crimes. As such given the volume of crimes this is an exercise which would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

You can access our performance stats via the following link: [How we are performing - Police Scotland](#)

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Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee at 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 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.

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