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Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2374
Date: 16th November 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.

1. Your total staff numbers, broken down by officers and non-officers.

Please be advised that the requested information is publicly available.

As such, in terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought. Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

- (a) states that it holds the information,
- (b) states that it is claiming an exemption,
- (c) specifies the exemption in question and
- (d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information that you have requested and the exemption that I consider to be applicable is set out at Section 25(1) of the Act - information otherwise accessible:

“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under Section 1(1) is exempt information”

I can confirm that the information requested is available through our website. I have attached a direct link to the relevant page below:

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/police-scotland-officer-numbers/>

2. The number of police officers/staff assigned to your fraud desk. If possible can you please break this down by the number of police officers vs regular staff, and full time vs part time workers on the fraud desk.

Police Scotland do not have a dedicated fraud desk and so the answer to your question in zero.

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To provide some context, all calls/reports in relation to fraud are handled by staff within our Contact Centres in line with all other crime reporting lines. Reports of fraud are then assessed and triaged by Crime Managers within Local Policing Areas and allocated to local policing or specialist departments for investigation, which includes crimes where there are links to Serious and Organised Crime with these being allocated to specialist officers within the Financial Investigation Units (FIU's).

The specialist officers of the FIU's investigate a number of financial crimes in addition to serious and organised fraud related crimes such as money laundering investigations and therefore are not solely devoted to investigating fraud alone.

3. The number of fraud offences reported to your police force (either by the public or passed on by a fraud agency such as Action Fraud, CIFAS or NFIB), for each of the past 5 years (2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017).

4. The number of these fraud cases in each year which were investigated by a police officer.

5. The number of these fraud cases in each year "solved" (i.e. a suspect was charged, cautioned or had an out of court penalty).

In relation to questions 3-5 of your request, please be advised that the requested information is publicly available.

As such, in terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought. Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

- (a) states that it holds the information,
- (b) states that it is claiming an exemption,
- (c) specifies the exemption in question and
- (d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information that you have requested and the exemption that I consider to be applicable is set out at Section 25(1) of the Act - information otherwise accessible:

"Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under Section 1(1) is exempt information"

I can confirm that the crime statistics requested is available through our website. We would count reported/investigated as recorded crimes and solved crimes as per your definition as detected crimes. I have attached a direct link to the relevant page below:

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/>

6. The average time between a fraud case getting reported and the force investigating it, for each of the past 5 years (2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017).

I can confirm that this is not a statistic which Police Scotland records and as such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information requested is not held by Police Scotland.

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Whilst it may be possible for this information to be created by comparing incident report time with crime reports/officer notebooks, there is no obligation under the Act for information to be created.

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.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.