

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2652
Date: 20 December 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'm looking for data on any fraud / scam cases in Glasgow / Edinburgh across the last three years if possible?

The data will be used in a press release to highlight the issues of financial fraud.

Please be advised that recorded and detected crime statistics, including Fraud are 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"

The information you are seeking is available on the Police Scotland website, via the following link: [How we are performing - Police Scotland](#)

Any reported cases involving credit card, mobile banking, text, email, cash machine fraud, whereby the victim has lost money by giving out information to scammers.

If the data has any victim information, for example age group, type of fraud etc, we'd like that too please so we can do an in depth year on year comparison.

OFFICIAL

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 determine whether a fraud was in relation to a scam, the values and victims involved would be to manually read each and every relevant crime report. I can further advise you that some offences of this nature may also be recorded as Proceeds of Crime Act as well as other dishonesty offences. To illustrate, the most recent published figures show that as at Q2 2022/23 financial year, there were 492 recorded crimes of Fraud in Edinburgh Division and 881 in Greater Glasgow Division. 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.

You may also be interested in [SCRS Crime Manual \(scotland.police.uk\)](https://www.scotland.police.uk/scrs-crime-manual)

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.

OFFICIAL