| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-1099  Responded to: 22 April 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**How many complaints have been made to Police Scotland over the past five years regarding people buying or selling items or services on social media which turned out to be a scam/ the person lost money?**

**Can we get the data logged on a year by year basis for the past 5 years.**

**Is it possible to also get data on how many of these cases ended up with a prosecution?**

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

To explain, there are no incident classification that directly aligns to the behaviours described in your request, That means that thousands of crime reports would have to be individually assessed for potential relevance.

To be of assistance, data for crimes such as fraud can be accessed online - [Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/)

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.