| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-1727  Responded to: xx July 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

Please can I have responses to the below questions; data may be given in calendar years and as specific numbers or percentages:  
  
1. Could you please supply me with the statistics concerning how many people have contacted you regarding being victims of scams in the last 5 years.  
2. Could you please supply me with the statistics concerning how many people have contacted you regarding being victims of identity theft in the last 5 years.  
3. Could you please supply me with the statistics concerning how many people have contacted you regarding being victims of energy scams in the last 5 years.  
4. Could you please supply me with the statistics concerning how many people have contacted you regarding being victims of job scams in the last 5 years.  
5. Could you please supply me with the statistics concerning how many people have contacted you regarding being victims of parcel delivery scams in the last 5 years.  
6. Could you please supply me with the statistics concerning how many people have contacted you regarding being victims of romance in the last 5 years.  
7. Could you please supply me with the statistics concerning how many people have contacted you regarding being victims of online scams in the last 5 years.  
8. Could I be provided with statistics showing the ages and genders of people that have contacted you regarding being victims of scams in the last 5 years.

In response to your request, I must first advise you that crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the Scottish Government Justice Department offence classification codes with ‘telephone banking scam’ offences aligning under the wider single crime classification code of ‘Fraud’.

Consequently I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the details 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.

As explained above, any instance of any type of ‘scam’ including identity theft, would be recorded under the general crime classifications of Fraud but would not thereafter be subcategorised by the type.

The crime recording systems used by Police Scotland also have no facility whereby the type of fraud can be easily extracted or searched upon. As such, case be case assessment of all Fraud related crimes would have to be carried out to establish whether they were relevant to your request.

As illustrated by our [published statistics](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/) this would involve individually examining thousands of crime reports for the time period requested - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations. To put this into context, there were 16,536 fraud crimes recorded in 2021/22.

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.