

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0561
Date: 18th March 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.

The number of cybercrimes reported to you and Action Fraud for 2021 as well as the type of crime.

Whilst I appreciate that you have attempted to refine your request, 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, Police Scotland currently still use the legacy crime recording systems that each of the 8 forces that went to make up Police Scotland held in 2013.

Each system has its own search capabilities and it has been established that there is no easy way to retrieve cyber flagged crimes in an automated manner. For example, whilst some systems do have a cyber marker that can be used to retrieve relevant crimes, this is not present on all crime systems across the country and so to provide consistent data, each crime report for the areas that do not hold an cyber marker would require to be read to establish the circumstances in relation to your request.

As illustrated by our [published statistics](#), this would involve case by case assessment of a vast number of crime reports - For the first quarter of 2021/22 there were 4,464 recorded fraud offences alone which would require to be assessed. As such, this is an exercise which would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management Dundee, 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

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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.

