



Our Ref: 001457/21

Your Ref:

Address Correspondence to: Information Management

Date 13 May 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information received 28/04/2021.

I note you seek access to the following information:

My request relates to the number of arrests made per year in relation to SMS scams, that is, scams where the use of SMS texts was a central part of a fraud, used to extract personal details or money from victims. These are also called Smishing message frauds.

I am asking every police force in the UK the same question.

In each case, I understand that records may be incomplete, and if this is the case, I would like whatever figures are available, together with their dates, to give the most accurate view possible.

Here is what I am requesting:

1. *The number of arrests made for each of the last 10 calendar years including 2021 so far relating to SMS scams as defined above*
2. *How many of those arrested were tried in court for those offences*
3. *How many of those arrested were convicted*

Please also tell me how recent 2021's data is. For instance, it could be four arrests to 31 March, or 10 arrests to 9 April.

Following receipt of your request, searches were conducted within Leicestershire Police to locate information relevant to your request.

Your request for information has now been considered and the information asked for is as follows: -

Leicestershire Police can only provide data from April 2015 (the commencement of our current crime recording system). These offences are dealt with by Action Fraud. By using the keywords 'text' or 'sms' in the summaries for fraud arrests the following data is held.

1. The number of arrests made for each of the last 10 calendar years including 2021 so far relating to SMS scams as defined above
3 in 2018 (1 offence, 2 suspects) and 1 in 2021
2. How many of those arrested were tried in court for those offences
All 4 have been charged but are awaiting hearings at court
3. How many of those arrested were convicted
N/A

Leicestershire Police provides you the right to ask for a re-examination of your request under its review procedure. Letters should be addressed to Information Manager, Corporate Services Department at the above address. If you decide to request such a review and having followed the Force's full process you are still dissatisfied, then you have the right to direct your comments to the Information Commissioner who will give it consideration.

Freedom of Information Officer
Leicestershire Police

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