



Our Ref: 002504/21

Your Ref:

Address Correspondence to: Information Management

Date 03 August 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information received 23/07/2021.

I note you seek access to the following information:

I would like to make a request please under the Freedom of Information Act regarding reports of scams and fraud – including those made directly to the force and those passed to the force by the NFIB.

In responses to all questions below, please include reports of all types of fraud and scams where victims have lost money. (For example: cyber-enabled fraud (such as email scams and scams operating using social media); telephone scams; postal scams; doorstep scams; romance fraud; investment and pensions scams; 'authorised push payment' scams and all other types of fraud and scams where victims lost money.

- 1. How many reports of fraud and scams – where victims lost money - did you receive in the 12 months from 23rd March 2019 to 23rd March 2020?*
- 2. How many reports of fraud and scams – where victims lost money - did you receive in the 12 months from 23rd March 2020 to 23rd March 2021?*

The following six questions all relate to the reports of fraud and scams included in your answer to question 2 (those you received in the 12 months from 23rd March 2020 to 23rd March 2021):

- 3. Of the reports included in your answer to question 2 (those you received in the 12 months from 23rd March 2020 to 23rd March 2021), how many were actively investigated at any stage?*
- 4. Of the reports included in your answer to question 2 (those you received in the 12 months from 23rd March 2020 to 23rd March 2021), how many have resulted in prosecution/s?*
- 5. Of the reports included in your answer to question 2 (those you received in the 12 months from 23rd March 2020 to 23rd March 2021), how many have resulted in criminal conviction/s of those responsible?*
- 6. Excluding those which have resulted in criminal conviction/s of those responsible, in how many of the cases included in your answer to question 2 (those of which you received reports in the 12 months from 23rd March 2020 to 23rd March 2021) have cases been closed?*

7. Of the cases included in your answer to question 2 (those of which you received reports in the 12 months from 23rd March 2020 to 23rd March 2021), in how many are proceedings or investigations still active? (Including those being actively investigated, those awaiting trial and those where trials are in progress).

8. Of the reports included in your answer to question 2 (those you received in the 12 months from 23rd March 2020 to 23rd March 2021), in how many cases was victims' money recovered from those responsible as a result of your investigations?

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 do not distinguish a crime based on loss, therefore the below numbers relate to cases created for fraud or scams.

1. Leicestershire Police recorded 591 cases in the period 23/03/2019 – 23/03/2020.
2. Leicestershire Police recorded 750 cases in the period 23/03/2020 – 23/03/2021.
3. Of the reports in question 2, 544 cases were investigated.
4. Of the 470 investigations which have been concluded, 14 are listed as Outcome 1: Charge/Summons.
5. Leicestershire Police do not hold convictions data, this would need to be requested from HMCTS.
6. Please see answer to question 4.
7. 74 of the reports in Q2 are still active.

Information relating to Q8 is considered exempt by virtue of Section 12.

Section 12 – Cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit.

Leicestershire Police would be required to conduct a manual review of all cases in order to identify those that were related specifically to the loss of money and a further review to identify any where funds have been returned as requested at Q8. This would take in excess of 18 hours.

In order to retrieve the information you have requested would therefore be in excess of the 18 hours specified by the Home Office as the time period for which a police force should allocate to a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

In the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004, the current regulatory limit which has been set by the Secretary of State for public authorities, which includes the police service, is £450 for the marginal costs which are the costs of finding, sorting, editing or redacting information and disbursements (printing, photocopying etc.). The Association of Chief Police Officers have agreed a national standard of an hourly rate of £25 is to be charged for the time taken. In essence therefore, the costs equate to 18 hours work per request. It will be apparent therefore that within the time frame of 18 hours it will not be possible to extract the information to answer any of your questions.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under s12(1) as the cost of providing you with the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the “appropriate level” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

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.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Officer
Leicestershire Police

Leicestershire Police in complying with their statutory duty under sections 1 and 11 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to release the enclosed information will not breach the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. However, the rights of the copyright owner of the enclosed information will continue to be protected by law.

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