| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2498  Responded to: 20 October 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 on phone number and email spoofing in Scotland.

## Request 1

## 1. How many reports you have received of people having their phone numbers fraudulently spoofed by companies in the past three years?

## 2. How many reports you have had of people receiving cold calls from spoofed numbers in the past three years?

## 3. How many of these reports have been investigated?

## 4. How many have resulted in a conviction?

## Request 2

## 1. How many reports you have received of people having their emails fraudulently spoofed by companies in the past three years?

## 2. How many reports you have had of people receiving email messages with forged sender addresses in the past three years?

## 3. How many of these reports have been investigated?

## 4. How many have resulted in a conviction?

Having considered your request in terms of the Act, 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 record crimes using the Scottish Government Justice Department crime classification codes and are not thereafter sub-categorised.

In this instance, I’m afraid that there is no offence classification specific to phone or email numbers being spoofed as outlined in your request. Such offences would be recorded under the more general classification of Fraud.

The only way to determine whether any reports were relevant to your request, would be to carry out case by case assessment of all potentially relevant crime reports. To illustrate, the most recent published figures show that for the 2022/23 financial year, there were 16,879 recorded crimes of Fraud. As each of these reports as a minimum would require reviewing this would be an exercise which would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

You may be interested in our published crime statistics which can be found on our website via the following link: [Our performance - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/our-performance)

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.