| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-3211  Responded to: 12 January 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I would like to know how many reports of romance fraud the force has received this year and broken down for 2022, 2021 and 2020 please.

## This crime type is described as the engineering of a supposed friendship or relationship for fraudulent / financial gain.

## For each case, can I see if any arrests / charges were brought please.

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 romance fraud as outlined in your request. Such offences could be recorded under more general classifications such as Fraud, Threats & Extortion, Disclosure of Images etc.

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 crime statistics](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/svplwv3q/management-information-force-report-quarter-4-2022-23.xlsx) 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.

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.