| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-2540  Responded to: 12 November 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I am writing under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 to inquire about reports of fraud to Police Scotland, particularly cyber fraud\*.

## Can you please share with me data contained in reported incidents (eg in STORM's database) which contain the words 'fraud', 'FaceBook', 'scam', 'stole' and 'deposit' from 01/01/2021 to 31/12/2021.

## Please can you share with me how many reports of these words separate and together were made.

I have included below figures for 2021 which provides an overview of the number of unique incidents that include at least one of the 5 keywords requested (FRAUD, FACEBOOK, SCAM, STOLE & DEPOSIT) across either the description (short 50 character incident overview description) or within the comment updates (effectively the incident log).

| **Unique incidents** | **All 5 keywords** | **Fraud** | **Facebook** | **Scam** | **Stole** | **Deposit** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 126888 | 30 | 24008 | 30466 | 12299 | 73202 | 32701 |

## Please can you share information on the nature of each incident and the outcome (eg advice given or what charges were pressed).

## Please share your findings that are completed within the time and spending allocation given.

## \*In this area of cyber fraud, I am hoping to look at data regarding housing scams online with tenants having deposits stolen by fraudulent scammers posing as landlords.

## I believe these questions are clear but if you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to reach out. Thank you for your cooperation.

I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested above. Therefore, in accordance with Sections 12(1) (Excessive cost of compliance) and 16(4) (Refusal of request) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (the Act), this letter represents a Refusal Notice.

By way of explanation, to identify the nature of each incident and outcome I would need to individually look at each incident. For example, there were 24008 incidents where the keyword Fraud was used in description of comments details. I estimate it would take approximately 5 minutes per incident research each of these and to identify the information requested. This would therefore take approximately 2000 hours and cost £30010. This task would therefore take well in excess of the 40 hour and £600 cost limit prescribed by the Scottish Ministers.

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.