

Request Reference: 499A/22

Under the Freedom of Information Act I would like to ask for information on the number of fraud cases reported to your force. I am looking for data on activity undertaken between January 1st 2021 and December 31st 2021 (inclusive).

Could you please share the following:

1. How many cases of fraud were reported to you in 2021 (please break down by category*)?

***Specified Categories:**

- a) Account takeover**
- b) Advance fee frauds**
- c) Bank card and cheque fraud**
- d) Business opportunity fraud**
- e) Click fraud domain name scams**
- f) Fraud government agency scams**
- g) Identity fraud**
- h) Online shopping fraud**
- i) Plastic card fraud**
- j) Rental fraud**
- k) Romance scams**

2,885 - This is the number disseminated to us by Action Fraud.

The following information has been provided by our Economic Crime Unit and is based on the categories specified by yourself:

*Specified Categories	Data (where available)
a) Account takeover	NFIB52B, NFIB 52C & NFIB 5A all of which have elements of account takeover = 299
b) Advance fee frauds	Using NFIB1A = 4
c) Bank card and cheque fraud	Using NFIB 5A = 124
d) Business opportunity fraud	No Data
e) Click fraud domain name scams	No Data
f) Fraud government agency scams	No Data
g) Identity fraud	No Data
h) Online shopping fraud	Using NFIB 3A = 137
i) Plastic card fraud	This is also part of category NFIB 5A – so will be an U/K part of 124.
j) Rental fraud	NFIB 1G = 88
k) Romance scams	NFIB 1D = 31

2. How many of the reported cases were investigated by your force (please break down by category)?

The cost of locating and retrieving this information would exceed the appropriate costs limit under section 12(1) of the FOI Act 2000. See covering letter for further details.

3. What was your total 2021 budget?

Our budget is set by the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner and this information can be found [here](#).

4. In 2021 did you have a specific budget for investigating fraud? If so, please state how much it was.

No specific budget

5. How many of these cases were passed on to Action Fraud?

None, this is not how fraud reporting works. Victims report to Action Fraud and they disseminate to us. Action Fraud do not investigate Fraud. If a call for service comes direct to West Midlands Police then an NFRC number will be obtained from Action Fraud but this is not us passing a case to them.

6. When fraud is reported to you, do you advise the victim also contact Action Fraud?

The Fraud Reporting model works as follows:

- a. Victim reports themselves to Action Fraud
- b. Victim reports to us, fulfils the classification of a call for service, we record a Fraud and then obtain an NFRC number from Action Fraud
- c. Victim reports to us, does not fulfil the classification of a call for service, victim is advised to report directly to Action Fraud (we do assist with this process on some occasions)

7. How many of these reported incidents were reported by an individual?

The cost of locating and retrieving this information would exceed the appropriate costs limit under section 12(1) of the FOI Act 2000. See covering letter for further details.

8. How many of these reported incidents were reported by a company?

The cost of locating and retrieving this information would exceed the appropriate costs limit under section 12(1) of the FOI Act 2000. See covering letter for further details.