

4 July 2025

FOI Ref 21532

Request - You asked us the following:

The purpose of this request is to gather data on reported investment scams and the outcomes of these reports, specifically how many resulted in convictions.

Note: For the purpose of this request, "investment scams" refers to fraudulent schemes where individuals are deceived into making financial investments that result in loss. This includes, but is not limited to: pension fraud, cryptocurrency scams, forex trading scams, boiler room schemes, fake bonds or shares, and any other deceptive investment opportunities promoted with the intent to defraud.

Specifically, I am seeking anonymised data on the following from January 2020 to July 2025:

The total number of investment scam reports received by your force, broken down by calendar year (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and partial data for 2025).

Of these reports, the number of cases that have resulted in criminal convictions

Only if held, the details of those convictions, including:

Type of sentence (e.g., fine, custodial sentence)

Amount of any fine issued

Length of custodial sentences, where applicable

I confirm, I am not seeking any personal or identifying information about individuals involved in these cases. I would like you to provide the information in the following format:

Please provide the information in electronic format, preferably as an Excel spreadsheet or CSV file. Please avoid sending PDFs or Word documents if possible.

I have linked an Excel Template for your convenience. Please use this template where possible to ensure consistency and ease of data extraction. However, if this is not possible to open for security reasons, please continue with the request as normal and don't use.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Gy1xXnyFgWyBsT9-bA3kZi-dfwXDpxx_T09V9BEDpYM/edit?usp=sharing

We received your request on 03/07/2025 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Staffordshire Police's response to your enquiry is as follows:

Staffordshire Police does not hold the requested information.

Advice and assistance

Section 16 of the Act places an obligation upon the Authority to provide advice and assistance, in order to comply with this obligation please see below.

Staffordshire Police is unable to provide data regarding fraud offences as these are now recorded by Action Fraud. Action Fraud is the national centre responsible for receiving, recording and disseminating reports of fraud. The Action Fraud website is:

<http://www.actionfraud.police.uk>

Please be advised that all Freedom of Information request responses are published on the Staffordshire Police website although personal details are not included.

Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure

1. Who Can Ask for a Review

Any person who has requested information from Staffordshire Police, which has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act, is entitled to complain and request an internal review, if they are dissatisfied with the response they received.

2. How to Request a Review

Requests for review of a Freedom of Information request must be made in writing within two months of the date of receipt of this email, and should be addressed to:

foi@staffordshire.police.uk

Or by Post to:

Central Disclosure Unit
Staffordshire Police HQ
PO Box 3167
Stafford
ST16 9JZ

The reference number, date of the request and details of why the review is being requested must be included. Requests for review should be brought to the attention of the Central Disclosure Unit within two months of the Force's response to the original FOI request.

3. Review Procedure

Receipt of a request for review will be acknowledged in writing. The review will be conducted by another Decision Maker who is independent from the original Decision Maker. The Central Disclosure Unit will set



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a target date for a response. The response will be made as soon as is practicable with the intention to complete the review within 20 working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to 40 working days.

The independent Decision Maker will conduct a review of the handling of the request for information and of decisions taken, including decisions taken about where the public interest lies in respect of exempt information where applicable. The review enables a re-evaluation of the case, taking into account the matters raised by the complaint.

4. Conclusion of the Appeal

On completion of the review the Independent Decision maker will reply to the complainant with the result of the review. If the complainant is still dissatisfied following the review they should contact the Information Commissioner to make an appeal. The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following details:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

ICO Website for complaints link: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Freedom of Information
Central Disclosure Unit