

FOI Request: 235/2018:

Request:

For each year 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017:

1. The total number of recorded fraud crimes (either disseminated from the NFIB (or similar agencies) or directly recorded)
2. The outcomes of any investigations into these crimes
3. The same data broken down into any subcategories of fraud used in your recording system.

Response:

I can confirm that Dyfed-Powys Police does hold the information requested; however we are exempting part of that information as we believe that the following exemption applies:

Section 30(1)(a) Investigations and Proceedings conducted by Public Authorities

The Section 30(1)(a) exemption is a class-based qualified exemption. This means that the legislators when writing the legislation considered that the release of such information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 would cause harm to the public authority or individual concerned. There is therefore no requirement to carry out a HARM Test in respect of such information. However there is a requirement to carry out a Public Interest Test in order to establish whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption may be outweighed by a wider public benefit in disclosure.

Section 30(1)(a) Investigations and Proceedings conducted by Public Authorities:

(1) Information held by a public authority is exempt information if it has at any time been held by the authority for the purposes of -

(a) Any investigation which the public authority has a duty to conduct with a view to it being ascertained (i) whether a person should be charged with an offence, or (ii) whether a person charged with an offence is guilty of it

Public Interest Test

Considerations favouring disclosure:

Disclosure of the information would improve the public's knowledge and awareness in relation to crimes of fraud in the Dyfed-Powys Police area and would provide satisfaction to the public that these cases are investigated thoroughly and offenders are being dealt with accordingly.

Considerations favouring non-disclosure:

This exemption covers information held at any time for the purpose of an investigation, whether the case is ongoing, closed or abandoned. To release details of ongoing investigations, as in this case, could undermine and prejudice those investigations. This would impact on the forces' future law enforcement capabilities by hindering the prevention or detection of crime.

Balancing Test

After considering the advantages and disadvantages in disclosure, it falls upon Dyfed-Powys Police to conduct a balance test on the issues. The strongest argument for disclosure, which is public awareness, needs to be weighed against the strongest arguments for non-disclosure, which in this case is that the release would undermine and prejudice ongoing investigations, which would impact on the forces' future law enforcement capabilities by hindering the prevention or detection of crime.

Therefore, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Question 1:

I can confirm that Dyfed-Powys Police does hold the information requested, as outlined below.

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total number of crimes recorded	280	299	345	274
<i>Section 30(1)(a) Investigations and Proceedings conducted by Public Authorities x 69</i>				

Question 2:

I can confirm that Dyfed-Powys Police does hold the information requested, as outlined below.

Outcomes	2014	2015	2016	2017
Adult Caution	29	31	6	5
Adult Community Resolution	2	14	22	9
Adult Conditional Caution	3	5	3	1
Caution - Adult - alternate offence	0	0	0	1
Charged	89	44	45	15
Charged for alternative offence	0	0	3	0
Formal action not in public interest (Police)	0	6	4	1
Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest - police decision	0	0	1	4
Investigation Complete: No suspect identified	29	58	68	67
Investigation Ongoing	7	3	23	36
Named suspect too ill to prosecute	1	1	0	0
Offender has died	0	0	1	0
Other agency dealing	0	9	12	17
Outcome type used inappropriately	1	0	0	0
PND for disorder	0	1	0	0
Prosecution not in public interest (CPS) (all offences)	1	1	4	3
Reported for Summons	10	3	2	9
Summons	8	10	13	13
Summonsed for alternative offence	0	0	2	0
Taken Into Consideration	29	5	11	0
Undetected	8	0	0	0
Victim declines/unable to support action	1	4	14	16
Victim does not (or has withdrawn) support	23	39	40	67
Victim or key witness dead/ too ill	0	2	3	2
Victim supports action but evidential difficulties	41	63	89	42
Youth Caution	0	1	0	1
Youth Community Resolution	1	0	0	0

Youth Conditional Caution	1	0	0	1
Youth Restorative Disposal	3	2	2	0
<i>Section 30(1)(a) Investigations and Proceedings conducted by Public Authorities x 69</i>				

Question 3:

I can confirm that Dyfed-Powys Police does hold the information requested, as outlined below.

Offence Type	2014	2015	2016	2017
Forgery of Drug Prescription	3	3	5	5
Fraud Incident	264	265	289	232
Making, Supplying or Possessing Articles for use in Fraud	4	0	1	3
Other Forgery	9	31	50	34
<i>Section 30(1)(a) Investigations and Proceedings conducted by Public Authorities x 69</i>				

Additionally, Dyfed-Powys Police can neither confirm nor deny that it holds any other information with regard to an exempt body as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply by virtue of the following exemption:

Section 23(5) Information supplied by or concerning certain Security Bodies.

Section 23 is a class-based absolute exemption and there is no requirement to consider the public interest in this case.

Confirming or denying the existence of whether any other information is held would contravene the constrictions laid out within Section 23 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in that this stipulates a generic bar on disclosure of any information applied by, or concerning, certain Security Bodies.

It should be noted that as a result of the systems adopted by Dyfed-Powys Police in relation to the recording of such information that the information released may or may not be accurate.

Furthermore, it should also be noted that Police forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide crime statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the crime data. It should be noted that for these reasons this force's response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you may receive.