



# HAMPSHIRE CONSTABULARY

**Joint Information Management Unit**  
Operational Headquarters  
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Hampshire  
SO23 8ZD

Mr Scott Winters  
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11 September 2019

**Our ref:** CM/PA/002182/19  
**Your ref:** —

Dear Mr Winters

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

I write in response to the above referenced Freedom of Information request submitted on the 21 August 2019, Hampshire Constabulary has now considered this request, which has been repeated below and have responded accordingly.

Request	Response
<p>I am collating statistics from all 43 police forces in England and Wales regarding the surge in 'Romance Fraud', that is, fraud committed by targeting and preying on vulnerable women. Please see the below BBC article for reference. On many occasions fraud is committed under the Fraud Act 2006 where the perpetrator obtains a gain and the victim a loss.</p> <p><a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-4863...">https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-4863...</a></p> <p>Additionally, perpetrators create and utilise fake accounts on certain dating sites and begin intimate relationships with their targets where no notifiable crime is committed under NCRS.</p> <p>Using your search filters, could you please provide the following information under the FOIA?</p>	<p>Hampshire Constabulary does not hold this information in a retrievable format. The cost of determining if the information is held, locating and retrieving the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. It is estimated that it would cost more than £450 to comply with your request.</p> <p>This information is not held in an easily retrievable format as there is no central facility from which we can extract it. Hampshire Constabulary records crime in accordance with the Home Office Counting Rules and there is no counting rule for 'Romance Fraud'. To determine if any information relative to your request is held, a manual review of all fraud crime reports and associated documents would be required; a review</p>



[www.hampshire.police.uk](http://www.hampshire.police.uk)

Deaf? Non-emergency text **07781 480999**

For crime and community information [www.hampshirealert.co.uk](http://www.hampshirealert.co.uk)



Number of notifiable crimes under heading, including any reports of rape subject to a crime report for:

2014 - 15 / 2015 - 16 / 2016 - 17 / 2017 - 18 / 2018 - 2019

Number of non-crime incidents, including rape for:

2014 - 15 / 2015 - 16 / 2016 - 17 / 2017 - 18 / 2018 - 2019

of this nature would exceed the cost limit set by the FOI regulations. However, whilst we record fraud crimes if they are reported to us, we do not progress the matter as we forward all fraud reports to Action Fraud. You may therefore wish to redirect your request to Action Fraud.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing down the search parameters – for example, choosing that we review 10 fraud reports over a shorter time period such as two months, to see if any information is held relative to your request. Refining your request in this way would significantly reduce the number of records that would need to be manually searched to retrieve the information you are seeking.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, if one element of a request exceeds the statutory cost limit, the whole request may be refused on grounds of cost. As such, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice in respect of your whole request. This does not, however, preclude us from supplying some information that is relevant to your request as a gesture of assistance and with this in mind we have provided some information below.

### **Information Provided**

Although excess cost removes the force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, I have supplied some information below, relative to your request. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

You may wish to contact Action Fraud via the following link:

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



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	<p>Information is also available as follows:</p> <p><a href="https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/overviewoffraudandcomputer misuse statisticsforenglandandwales/2018-01-25">https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/overviewoffraudandcomputer misuse statisticsforenglandandwales/2018-01-25</a></p>
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## **COMPLAINT RIGHTS**

If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or the decision made by Hampshire Constabulary, you can lodge a complaint with the force to have the decision reviewed within 2 months of the date of this response. Complaints should be made in writing to the Public Access office at the address at the top of this letter.

If, after lodging a complaint with Hampshire Constabulary, you are still unhappy with the outcome, you may make application to the Information Commissioner at the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF, via telephone on 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745 or at the website [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

Yours sincerely

Amy McDonald  
Public Access  
Joint Information Management Unit



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