

Ref: 2021/32

Request Date: 03.06.2021

Response to a request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Your predecessor pledged additional new money from the council tax payer to set up a 5 strong economic crime unit led by a Detective Inspector, plus an additional post to support victims of online fraud.

The Royal United Services Institute in its report relating to on line fraud said, as follows:

‘It is the crime UK citizens are most likely to fall victim to, but the failures in responding risk undermining public confidence in the rule of law.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales found 3.7 million reported incidents in 2019-20 of members of the public being targeted by credit card, identity and cyber-fraud.’

The financial loss is estimated at:

“The scale of credit card, identity and cyber-fraud makes it the most prevalent crime, costing up to £190bn a year.”

Households and victims will have experienced attempts to gain fraudulent access to bank and credit card accounts and attempts to obtain money by deception. Many of the victims are elderly and become frightened when seemingly genuine approaches by telephone, text or email are, in fact, fraudulent.

The systems for reporting such occurrences are reasonably well known, but there is little, if any, action with regard to arrest and prosecution and the recovery of stolen money.

I would like to know and learn from the following:

1. For the year ending the 31 March 2021 the number of fraud offences reported to NWP
2. For the same period the number of arrests for fraud
3. For the same period the number of reports for offences of fraud sent to the CPS
4. For the same period the number of prosecutions



5. The date the new economic crime unit was operational and the staffing levels
6. The budget allocated to the unit
7. Details of your plan to combat this type of fraud.

Response

Points 1 – 6:- I can confirm that we do not hold this information. However, Section 16 of the FOIA informs that it is good practice to inform requesters where the information they seek may be held. In this case I suggest that you direct your enquiry to North Wales Police.

They may be found at <https://www.northwales.police.uk/rqo/request/ri/request-information/>

Points 7 – I can confirm that I do not hold this information. Please note that the Police and Crime Plan will be ratified by the Police and Crime Panel and published by March 2022. A copy will be made available on our website. Section 1, FOIA.

This information has been provided in response to a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is correct as at 07/06/2021

Although not asked as part of this request for information, please note that the Police and Crime Commissioner has provided funding towards a Fraud Caseworker to support victims of this type of crime. See [here](#) for more information.

