

Response

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for the following:

- (1) I am seeking information on the number of gambling-related offences in the Tayside region of Scotland that have been reported to the Gambling Commission, broken down each year, for 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and as up to date as possible for 2017.
- (2) Can the figures please be broken down by each category of offence – i.e under 16s gambling illegally, cheating, attempting to cheat, shop operating without a licence.

Unfortunately we do not categorise our reports into the number of gambling-related offences in such a way that we could easily extract data at this level of geographical breakdown. All reports are logged and categorised but the searchable fields are limited. Furthermore, we receive information from a variety of different source and in some instances the information provided can be limited. We do not use a category which would identify reports as being specific to this region, the only way we could identify these is through a manual check of our records; which still may not show a true reflection of the number of gambling related offences for this area.

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for public authorities, such as the Commission, is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 2.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information. We estimate that it would take in excess of 2.5 working days to determine appropriate material and locate, retrieve and extract any relevant information in reference to your request. If you are able to narrow your request, in terms of the timescale or type of complaint we should be able to provide some data by working up to the time limit.

- (3) And finally, can you please briefly explain how the Gambling Commission investigates these reports and works alongside Police Scotland?

The Commission is working to develop a Memorandum of Understanding/Information Sharing Protocol with Police Scotland and has regular dialogue with Police Scotland colleagues in relation to gambling policy and operational matters, in addition to responding to requests for advice and information.

Review of the decision

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your Freedom of Information request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to FOI Team, Gambling Commission, 4th floor, Victoria Square House, Victoria Square, Birmingham, B2 4BP.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Gambling Commission. The ICO can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Request

I am writing to make an open government request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. In order to assist you with this request, I am outlining my query as specifically as possible. If however this request is too wide or too unclear, I would be grateful if you could contact me as I understand that under the act, you are required to advise and assist requesters.

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