

Response Date:27/01/2025

2025/033 - Fraud

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

I have heard of a scam where scammers pose as potential buyers, visit a car in person, distract the seller and sabotage the car to ask for the car at a lower price. I have seen that Surrey Police have mentioned this as part of their April 2024 Newsletter:

<https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.surrey.police.uk%2Fpolice-forces%2Fsurrey-police%2Fareas%2Fcampaigns%2Fcampaigns%2F2024%2Ffraud-newsletter---april-2024-edition%2F&data=05%7C02%7CFreedomofinformationteam%40northwales.police.uk%7C9c61186e7d1649699d1508dd2f4262a1%7C4e86b176a10e43bd8d27927f44d0e665%7C0%7C0%7C638718684354692200%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMjIsIkFOIjoITWFpbCIsIlldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C%7C&sdata=OUt0ErFMGAbj6y%2BawxizPDmbS5z%2FHpxqz73bUbr%2Fu70%3D&reserved=0>

Please may you provide me with:

- 1) Is the above type of scam something your force have seen reports of during 2024 (1st January 2024 - 31st December 2024)?
- 2) How many cases of this type of fraud were reported to your force, between:
 - a) 1st January 2024 - 30th June 2024
 - b) 1st July 2024 -31st December 2024(if you are not able to provide figures between this window, please provide 1 year stats for the 2024 year, or 1 year and the date range they apply for)
- 3) Therefore, have you seen an increase/decrease in this type of fraud in the year 2024 compared to the previous year? (1st January 2023 - 31st December 2023 vs 1st January 2024 - 31st December 2024)?
- 4) How many cases of motor fraud were reported to your force between:
 - a) 1st January 2024 - 30th June 2024
 - b) 1st July 2024 - 31st December 2024(if you are not able to provide figures between this window, please provide 1 year stats for the 2024 year, or 1 year and the date range they apply for)
- 5) Therefore, have you seen an increase/decrease in motor fraud in the year 2024 compared to the previous year? (1st January 2023 - 31st December 2023 vs 1st January 2024 - 31st December 2024)

Our information is set up and searchable for our policing purposes. There is no specific motor fraud NFIB category, therefore to obtain the information in the format you have requested would involve manually reviewing each 'Other Fraud' offence record on our force system. The cost of providing you with the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of retrieving the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (FOI) Fees and Appropriate Limit regulations 2004.

Therefore, in accordance with the FOI Act 2000 the information you have requested is exempt under Section 12 (1), and this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under section 17 (5) of the legislation.

There was a 'Nil' return for offence of obtaining property/pecuniary advantage by deception during the period requested.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 21/01/2025