



Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority

Response to Freedom of Information Request

Reference:	FOI_29_2026_27
Date of Request:	09/07/2026
Request	
Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information relating only to incidents that occurred in Scotland (only) for the last five complete financial years available. 1. Compensation Payments Relating to Sexual Assault Please provide, for each financial year (2021/22–2025/26): • The number of successful compensation awards where the applicant selected "sexual assault" as the incident type. • The total amount of compensation paid in relation to those successful awards. 2. Compensation Awards Where No Conviction Was Secured For each of the last five financial years, please provide: • The number of successful compensation awards relating to sexual assault where no criminal conviction had been secured against a suspect. • The total amount of compensation paid in such cases. 3. Evidential Basis for Awards Please provide information on: • What evidence, in addition to a police crime reference number, is required before compensation can be awarded. 4. Fraud Investigations and Outcomes For each of the last five financial years, please provide: • The number of applications investigated for suspected fraud, false representation or misleading information. • The number of applications refused following findings of fraud, false representation or misleading information. If any part of this request is considered likely to exceed the appropriate cost limit, I would be grateful if you could advise how it may be refined so that the requested information can be provided.	
<u>CICA Response</u>	
1. CICA holds information relevant to your request.	

The below table shows the number of successful applications made by applicants injured in Scotland where the applicant selected 'sexual assault' as the incident type in financial years 2021/22-2025/26.

	A	B
Financial Year	Number of successful applications where the applicant was injured in Scotland and selected 'sexual assault' as the incident type	Total amount of compensation awarded in response to the applications in column A
2021/22	549	£7,843,276
2022/23	507	£7,053,626
2023/24	772	£10,532,336
2024/25	612	£9,263,078
2025/26	695	£11,361,186

2. CICA may hold some information within the scope of your request however it is exempt under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). Section 12(1) states that public authorities are not obliged to comply with requests for information if they estimate that the cost of compliance would exceed their appropriate cost limit.

The appropriate cost limit is defined in the Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 and, for CICA, it is £450. This is equivalent to 18 hours' work by a member of CICA staff (calculated at £25 per hour) to locate, retrieve and extract the information requested. The rate of £25 per hour is set out in the FOI Code of Practice issued under section 45 FOIA.

The reason why your request exceeds the appropriate cost limit is that the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme 2012 (the Scheme) pays compensation based on the injuries sustained by victims rather than the type of offence that led to those injuries or whether the assailant was convicted. The Scheme does not require CICA to wait for the outcome of any criminal investigation or trial and we do not monitor the outcomes of investigations which are ongoing at the time of our decisions.

In order to identify if we hold information confirming that there was a criminal conviction in a specific case, we would need to conduct a manual review of all relevant case files and that exercise would exceed our cost limit.

CICA has considered the obligation in section 16 FOIA to provide you with reasonable advice and assistance to help you refine this part of your request. It is our view that this request can only be refined to the extent that we would be able to comply with it, without exceeding our cost limit, by requesting the information over a much shorter period (e.g. a 6 month period).

3. 'Criminal injuries compensation: a guide' falls within the scope of your request. This was provided within our response to FOI_17_2026_27. For ease of reference you can access the information at the below weblink:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/criminal-injuries-compensation-a-guide>

4. Please note that, in accordance with our data retention policy, records relating to potential fraud referrals are archived three years after an investigation has been closed. As a result, we only retain this information for cases that were closed from 2023 onwards.

Between 1 April 2023 and 28 July 2026, a total of 7 potential fraud referrals were accepted for investigation relating to an application made by an applicant injured in Scotland.

Where a request is made for statistical information and the number of cases involved relates to five or fewer applicants, the CICA must consider whether disclosure of this information could lead to the identification of any individuals and whether such disclosure would therefore be a breach of our statutory obligations under the UK General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018.

In this instance, we believe that the release of this information could potentially identify the individuals concerned. For this reason, we have chosen not to provide the exact figure. It should not be assumed that the actual figure falls at any particular point within this range; 'between 0 and 5' is simply used as a replacement value.

Between 1 April 2023 and 28 July 2026, between 0 and 5 applicants were refused compensation as a result of findings made by CICA following a referral due to potential fraud.