



Access to Public Information Request

Date of receipt: 12th November 2019

Date of response: 10th December 2019

Request regarding potential criminal investigations conducted by Guernsey Police

Request for information:

Can you please provide me with six particular pieces of information in relation to potential criminal investigations conducted by the Guernsey Police:

1. What is the basis upon which Guernsey Police / Law Officers determine that “Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest” i.e. (the list below is not exhaustive):
 - a. Too costly to pursue;
 - b. The offence is too minimal to warrant an investigation;
 - c. Seasonal (i.e. the Police are really busy in the summer);
 - d. It’s a civil matter, despite it being an offence;
 - e. Victim profile (i.e. bad eggs don’t deserve justice themselves).

2. In respect of the table at the bottom of page 27 of the 2018 Annual Police report; could you please confirm that the number 3 under, “Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest”, relates to the number of offences committed and not the number of offenders who may have committed multiple offences? These 3 crimes fell under:
 - a. Drug Offences = 1
 - b. Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society = 1
 - c. Violence Against the Person = 1

3. In respect of the table at the bottom of page 27 of the 2018 Annual Police report; could you please confirm that the number 3 under, “Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest”.
Can you confirm that “civil matters”, such as fraud, which were also a criminal offence under the law are contained within these figures and if not, why not?
 - a. Drug Offences = 1
 - b. Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society = 1
 - c. Violence Against the Person = 1

4. In respect of question 3. If matters considered as civil matters, despite their also being criminal offences under the law, are not included within the table at the bottom of page 27 then can these figures please be provided and classified accordingly as “civil offences with equivalent ‘potential’ criminal status”
5. Using this modelling method for previous years, can you please confirm the same statistics for the years 2017, 2016 and 2015? I am seeking to identify if 3 is a typically high figure or a low figure.
6. Can you please provide the current statistics for the year to 12th September 2019?

Response:

- 1) Definition of ‘public interest’. The somewhat pejorative list that you provide is not recognised, however guidelines regarding consideration of public interest can be found in The Code for Crown Prosecutors, and the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime, both of which are freely available on-line.
- 2) Guernsey Law Enforcement Annual Report statistics. Yes, the table mentioned relates to the number of crimes recorded within this jurisdiction, under the Home Office Counting Rules and the National Crime Reporting Standard.
- 3) Civil matters. No, only recorded criminal matters are listed in the table.
- 4) Civil matters and criminal offences committed in other jurisdictions are not listed.
- 5) Previous data. The outcomes listed for previous years are not available, as 2018 was the first year for the outcomes to be recorded in this manner.
- 6) The statistics for recorded crime in 2019 will be collated and published in 2020, and made freely available online, or on request.

It is widely accepted and acknowledged that the number of fraud related crimes continues to increase. The vast majority of such crimes are cyber enabled. 50% of all crime in the UK last year was cyber enabled. 38% of all UK crime during the first six months of 2019 was fraud related.

Experience locally has shown that most local residents who are victims of fraud offences have suffered as a result of a cyber-enabled crime and that the offender does not reside locally and in fact the location of the offender is not known and could be anywhere in the World. Hence any investigation is very difficult and often not within the capacity of local law enforcement. Thus, reports are made to Action Fraud who collect and analyse such instances of fraud nationally, and then link in with other specialist agencies.

You can be reassured that local crimes are fully investigated, however if it is a civil matter, then it is not a case for police to investigate and it would be for the person to pursue the matter by other means and with appropriate legal advice.

It is not a surprise that local fraud reports are significantly lower than the UK. The vast majority of residents are honest and law abiding.

The Economic Crime Department, Crime Reduction Officer and Trading Standards work hard to inform the public and businesses in fraud prevention and are proactive in their work.

If you would like to make a complaint regarding the service you have received by the Guernsey Police, you are welcome to contact the Professional Standard Department at Police Headquarters, St Peter Port or refer to the Guernsey Police website for further advice about making a complaint.