

10 June 2024

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Tēnā koe Ana

Request for information

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 22 May 2024. You wrote:

I am a student at the University of Otago and am working on a assignment on scams, specifically on elderly/older people who have issues with media literacy. Would it be possible to obtain data of scams on middle age and elderly people that have been committed in the past five years? Names are not needed, just statistics on age and number of cases per year.

There is no offence code for a scam. For the purposes of this request, I have chosen to provide you the information on the following offences:

- 4553 - Obtain by Deception (Over \$1,000) - Crimes Act 1961 Section 240
- 4554 - Obtain by Deception (\$500-\$1,000) - Crimes Act 1961 Section 240
- 4555 - Obtain by Deception (Under \$500) - Crimes Act 1961 Section 240
- 4556 - Cause Loss by Deception (Over \$1,000) - Crimes Act 1961 Section 240
- 4557 - Cause Loss by Deception (\$500-\$1,000) - Crimes Act 1961 Section 240
- 4558 - Cause Loss by Deception (Under \$500) - Crimes Act 1961 Section 240
- 4577 - Acting as Medium with Intent to Deceive - Summary Offences Act 1981 Section 16(1)(a)

The table below shows the number of such offences by calendar year, where the victim for each was 40 years or older at the time of the offence. This table shows the count of offences, not people. Each offence may have multiple victims and they could be of different age, so the sum of rows may be larger than the unique total of offences provided in the table.

Table 1. Deception offences where victim was 40 years or older, 2019-2023.

Victim age at the time of the offence \ Calendar year of the offence	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Unique Total by age
40-49 years	1,227	1,571	2,302	2,787	3,278	11,165
50-59 years	1,193	1,267	1,967	2,495	3,072	9,994
60-69 years	829	843	1,327	2,000	2,206	7,205
70-79 years	598	564	939	1,234	1,313	4,648
80 years and older	248	257	388	455	400	1,748
Unique Total by calendar year	4,032	4,455	6,833	8,880	10,152	34,352

Police National Headquarters

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Data in this response is drawn from a dynamic operational database and is subject to change as new information is recorded or updated.

Note that it is the Police National Recording Standard¹ requirement to record the most serious offence. There may be instances where a scam results in another, more serious offence which would mean one of the offence codes above would not be recorded.

Please note that as part of its commitment to openness and transparency, Police proactively releases some information and documents that may be of interest to the public. An anonymised version of this response may be publicly released on the New Zealand Police website.

Ngā mihi



Zane Kearns

Director: Performance and Data (acting)

¹ <https://www.police.govt.nz/sites/default/files/publications/national-recording-standard-nrs.pdf>