

Date: 26/06/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/012848/V

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/012848/V

I write in connection with your request for information dated 25/06/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

In many cases I have come across, people in developing countries pay these huge sums, and yet the certificate of sponsorship is never given. This practice has been dubbed "certificate of sponsorship fraud". Often the money is paid to someone in the UK, or through someone in the UK.

I am currently looking in to cases of fraud or theft involving certificates of sponsorship.

- 1. Has your force received any reports of fraud/theft involving certificates of sponsorship since the beginning of this year? If so, how many?***
- 2. If so, have they been referred on to Action Fraud?***
- 3. How many of these cases have been referred back to you by Action Fraud since the beginning of the year for further investigation? How many have you decided to take on for further investigation?***
- 4. In cases where your force has decided not to undertake further investigation, what was the reasoning behind this?***
- 5. Is your force actively investigating any cases of fraud/theft involving certificates of sponsorship? If so, how many?***
- 6. What stage are those investigations at?***
- 7. Has your force concluded any investigations in cases of fraud/theft involving certificates of sponsorship? If so, how many, and did they result in any arrests or charges brought?***
- 8. In cases where charges have been brought, what stage are these cases now at? Have any yet proceeded to court?***
- 9. Can you share the names of any people who have been charged?***
- 10. Does your force have a strategy in place to systematically handle cases involving certificate of sponsorship fraud? If so, what is this strategy?***

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information and I can confirm the information requested is not held by GMP.

Action Fraud are responsible for recorded fraud offences. Please re-direct your request to them via the below link.

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/contact-us>