



Home Office

Rt Hon Lynne Featherstone MP
Minister for Crime Prevention

2 Marsham Street,
London SW1P 4DF
www.gov.uk/home-office

Roger Evans AM
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London SE1 2AA

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CTS ref:

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Dear Mr Evans,

Thank you for your letter of 24 October to my predecessor, Rt Hon Norman Baker MP, about data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) relating to online crime and fraud.

Responsibility for the Crime Survey passed from the Home Office to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in 2012, following the National Statistician's independent review of crime statistics. My officials have spoken to their ONS counterparts, and I understand that the ONS has now published the figures you request on its website (at <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/about-ONS/business-transparency/freedom-of-information/what-can-i-request/published-ad-hoc-data/crime/november-2014/index.html>).

The Crime Survey questions you referred to capture information on users' 'negative online experiences'. Whilst the resulting data provides a useful indicator, the data is not included in the headline crime count of the survey, as it does not directly measure criminal activity or police recorded crime (i.e. some 'negative online experiences' will be unpleasant but not criminal).

The Home Office takes cyber crime and fraud very seriously, and we are working closely with the ONS to improve the measurement of both in the Crime Survey. In the meantime, we use a range of published data to build up our picture of the issues.

Yours sincerely

Rt Hon Lynne Featherstone
Minister of State