



Criminal Injuries  
Compensation  
Authority

Response to Freedom of Information Request

Reference:	FOI_79_2025
Date of request:	5 March 2025
<b>Request</b>	
<p>I am writing to submit a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the management and oversight of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme, particularly in relation to claims involving sexual offences.</p> <p>I have concerns about the protection of public funds, and the potential for fraudulent claims being made within the scheme, specifically those stemming from false accusations of sexual offences.</p> <p>I would be grateful if you could provide the following information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>What measures are currently in place</b> to ensure that claims related to sexual offences in the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme are thoroughly investigated to prevent fraudulent claims or claims based on false accusations?</li><li>2. <b>What steps are taken</b> to assess the veracity of claims where the alleged offence is contested or where the accused individual has not been convicted?</li><li>3. <b>How does the scheme verify that an individual applying for compensation has actually been the victim of a sexual offence</b> and that the claim is not based on inaccurate or fabricated information?</li><li>4. <b>Has there been any recent review or audit</b> regarding the number of sexual offence-related claims that have been deemed fraudulent or unsupported by sufficient evidence? If so, could you provide the findings?</li><li>5. <b>How are individuals who are falsely accused or wrongfully implicated</b> in claims for sexual offence compensation supported or protected within the scheme? Are there any procedures in place to ensure they are not unfairly penalised in the event of a proven false claim?</li><li>6. <b>What specific protocols</b> are in place to ensure public funds are not misused in relation to fraudulent or fabricated sexual offence claims, and how are these protocols monitored and enforced?</li></ol>	
<b><u>CICA Response</u></b>	
<p>We do not hold recorded information to answer your queries.</p> <p>Applications are assessed using the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme 2012 (the Scheme) and evidence provided by the police. Only where a claims officer is satisfied that a "crime of violence" (as defined by the Scheme) has occurred will an award of compensation be made. We do not investigate the crime ourselves, nor do we have any role in connection with the punishment of alleged offenders.</p>	

CICA takes allegations of fraud seriously and will investigate these, referring to the Ministry of Justice's Counter Fraud teams where relevant, and reporting instances where we identify potential fraud to the police.

A guide to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme (the Scheme) is publicly available at the following link that might be able to assist with the questions you have raised.

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

