

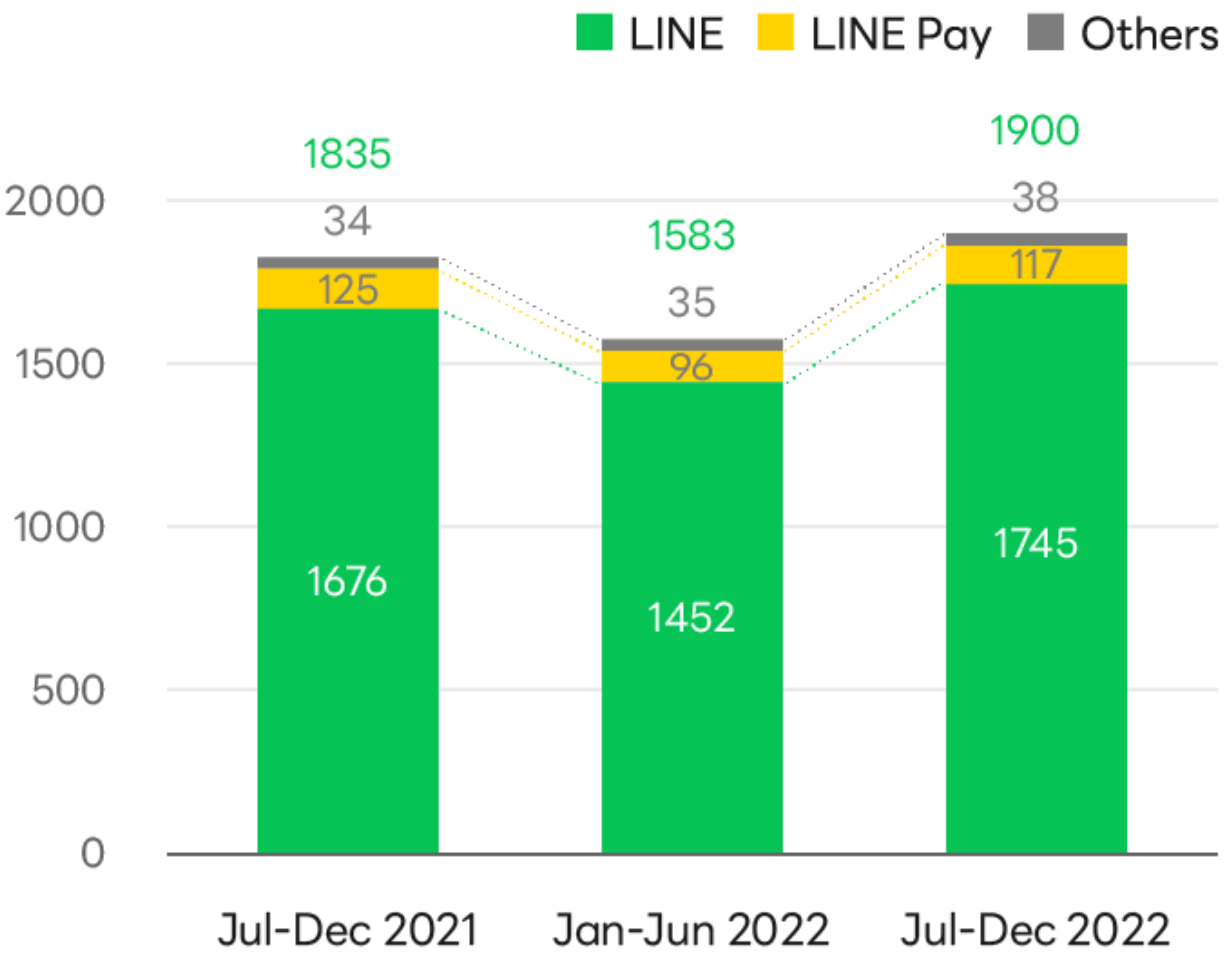
# LINE Transparency Report

English

Jul-Dec 2022

## User Information Disclosure/Deletion Requests From Law Enforcement

Cases User Information is Provided



## Summary of July - December 2022



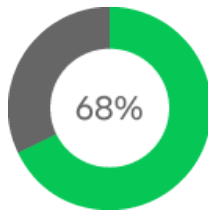
### Requests and Disclosures

We received 2,415 requests in total and made 1,900 disclosures.



### Targeted Contact Information

Data related to 2,574 pieces of contact information were disclosed.



### Law Enforcement

Requests from Japanese law enforcement accounted for 68% of the total.

- From July to December 2022, we received 2,415 requests from law enforcement agencies all over the world. This marks an increase of 7% from the previous period. Information was disclosed in 1,900 requests for an increase of 21% from the previous period in the total number of disclosures.
- Out of the 1,900 requests in which information was disclosed, 1,745 involved the communication app LINE (henceforth "LINE"), an increase of 20% compared to the 1,452 requests fulfilled the previous period.
- 35% of disclosures were related to incidents involving financial harm. In Japan, most disclosures were related to financial harm (32%). In Taiwan, the country with the second-highest number of disclosures, most disclosures were also related to financial harm (44%).
- Data related to 2,574 pieces of contact information were disclosed as part of the 1,900 requests that we fulfilled. This is a ratio of 1.35 pieces of contact information per fulfilled request. The previous period saw a ratio of 1.58 pieces of contact information per fulfilled request.
- We did not receive any requests from new countries during this period. We began compiling statistics in 2016 and have received requests from 23 countries and regions to date.
- Most requests came from Japanese (68%) and Taiwanese (28%) law enforcement agencies.

- For every one million monthly active users in Japan, data related to 19.3 pieces of contact information were disclosed to law enforcement. For every one million monthly active users in Taiwan, data related to 34.0 pieces of contact information were similarly disclosed.
- All of the “Investigation-Related Inquiries” in Japan were related to LINE Pay. We will only respond to “Investigation-Related Inquiries” if there is detailed proof of money laundering, fraud, or other criminal activity; if damages have been caused via LINE Pay; or if LINE Pay was used in a crime. We will not disclose user information if law enforcement agencies do not provide detailed evidence of a crime being committed. For details on our policy regarding responding to and disclosing information to law enforcement agencies, see **Responding to Law Enforcement Agencies**.

## Report notes

- This report covers information on the number of disclosure requests from law enforcement made to us and the number of cases which were actually disclosed in the relevant 6-month period.
- The reports prior to and including Jan-Jun 2018 cover data related to the LINE app only. The reports for Jul-Dec 2018 and onward cover data related to all services that LINE Corporation provides. The reports for Jan-Jun 2020 and onward cover data related to services provided by LINE group companies. The reports for Jul-Dec 2022 and onward cover data related to services provided by LINE Corporation and its subsidiaries. Check "Services" below for a list of relevant services.
  - Starting from Jan-Jun 2021, we have changed the method by which we calculate report statistics. Up until this period, we counted requests that were both received and fulfilled within the report period in our statistics. From Jan-Jun 2021 onward, we will count only requests fulfilled within the report period regardless of when they were received.
- We comply with disclosure requests from Japanese law enforcement when at least one of the following legal grounds is met:
  - Warrant (Code of Criminal Procedure): A document issued by a court by request of a law enforcement agency that permits seizure, inspection or other activities.
  - Investigation-Related Inquiry (Code of Criminal Procedure): An information disclosure request from law enforcement to a business operator or other entity for aiding in an investigation.
  - Emergency (Penal Code): An emergency action taken when a human life or rights are under threat. For “LINE”, this means identifying a relevant user when, for example, a bomb threat or suicide threat is made.
- “Warrants” and “Investigation-Related Inquiries” include requests received originally as “Emergencies” but fulfilled in accordance with corresponding procedures for relevant legal documents.

- We will only cooperate with criminal investigations in accordance with strict information handling rules, and only when a thorough verification confirms the legality or overall propriety of the investigation.
- "Disclosures" (or "requests fulfilled") refers to the number of times we have actually provided investigation reports or responded to requests after determining that at least one of the legal grounds has been met (regardless of whether or not the report contains any information).
- A single request may include multiple pieces of contact information.
- We fulfill requests from overseas in accordance with frameworks for international investigation cooperation such as 'The Act on International Assistance in Investigation and Other Related Matters' and mutual legal assistance treaties (MLAT) with specific countries. This includes instances where the Japanese police receive a request via the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO) or Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs receives a request via an embassy. The same rules regarding warrants and verification by privacy protection organizations and other handling rules still apply.
- "Targeted Contact Information" indicates the specific user contact information (phone number, LINE ID, etc.) that authorities identified as relevant to their investigation.

## Services

Reports for this period include the services listed below.

- LINE
- LINE Official Account
- LINE PLAY
- LINE LIVE
- LINE OpenChat
- LINE Pay (Japan only)
- LINE Pocket Money
- LINE BITMAX
- LINE Prepaid Card
- LINE GIFT
- LINE BLOG
- LINE STORE
- LINE de oubo
- LINE TODAY

The list above only includes services that participated in the disclosure or received requests in this period.

## Disclosure Requests

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## Japan

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Requests		1,631
Disclosures	Warrants	1,299
	Investigation -Related Inquiries	73
	Emergencies	31
Targeted Contact Information		1,814

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## South Korea

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Requests		112
Disclosures	Warrants	9
	Investigation -Related Inquiries	-
	Emergencies	0
Targeted Contact Information		12

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## Taiwan

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Requests		665
Disclosures	Warrants	488
	Investigation -Related Inquiries	-
	Emergencies	0
Targeted Contact Information		748

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## United Kingdom

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Requests		2
Disclosures	Warrants	0
	Investigation -Related Inquiries	-
	Emergencies	0
Targeted Contact Information		0

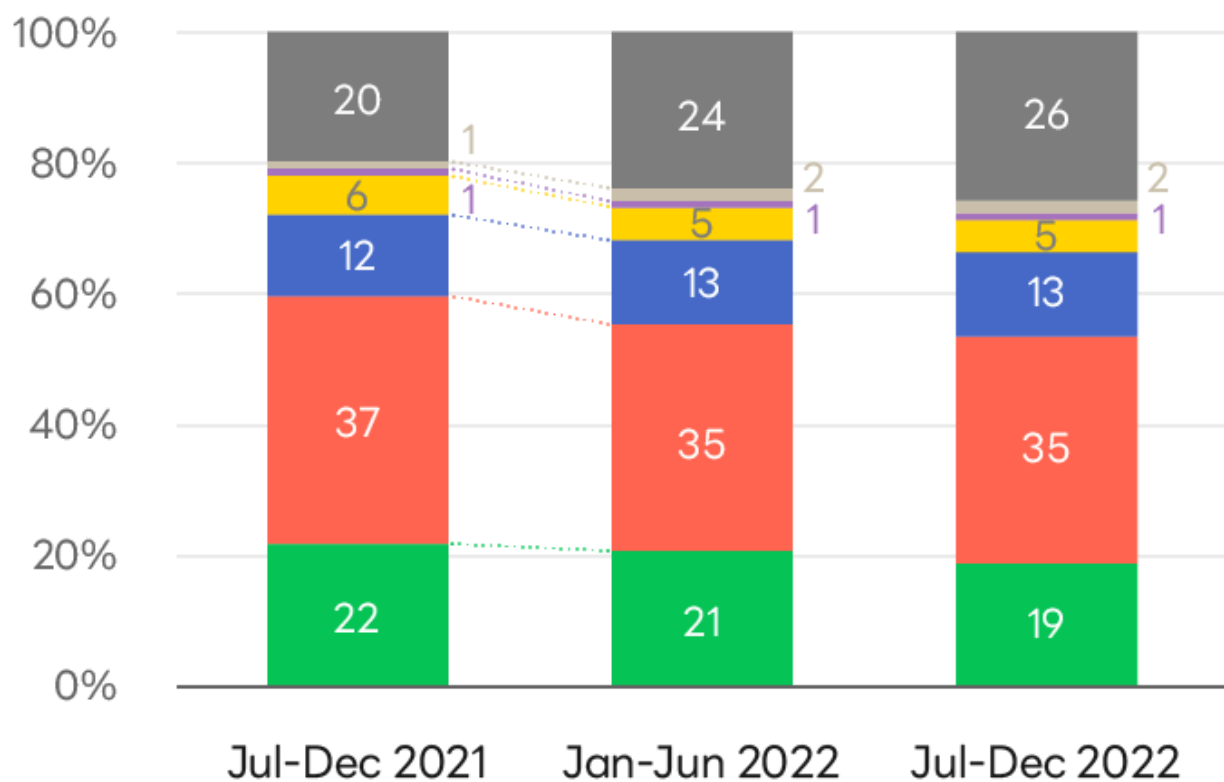
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United States		
Requests		5
Disclosures	Warrants	0
	Investigation -Related Inquiries	-
	Emergencies	0
Targeted Contact Information		0

## Total Disclosure Requests

Requests		2,415
Disclosures	Warrants	1,796
	Investigation -Related Inquiries	73
	Emergencies	31
Targeted Contact Information		2,574

The graph below breaks down the disclosed data.



- Others
- Pre-incident warnings or threats
- Unauthorized access
- Illegal and harmful information
- Bodily harm
- Financial harm
- Abuse of children

- Many disclosures related to the LINE app involved children (including violations of municipal ordinances on youth protection, violations of dating site regulations, child prostitution, child pornography, and child abuse). To protect children from crime and provide a safe environment for our services, we carry out initiatives such as:
  - Restrictions such as disabling the friend search function for minors;
  - **Distributing educational materials** regarding information ethics to young people, guardians, and educators via the LINE MIRAI Foundation;
  - Let's Think About Fun Communication!
  - GIGA Workbook

- Let's Think About Social Commentary on Social Media
  - Conducting **online workshops** on information ethics via the LINE MIRAI Foundation;
  - Participating in the Social Media Association of Japan and working with related organizations and ministries;
  - Conducting surveys via the LINE MIRAI Foundation to understand the way the internet is used among youths; and
  - Engaging in collaborative research with universities and other **research institutions to prevent harm** to children
- Starting in September 2020, distributing educational materials to promote financial and information literacy through the LINE MIRAI Foundation.

## Deletion Requests

No effective deletion request has been received from the authorities during this period.

## Related Pages

Responding to Law Enforcement Agencies

Guidelines for Responding to Law Enforcement