

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1506  
Date: 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

**I'm looking for info on the number of shoplifting incidents. With the cost-of-living crisis hitting hard we're looking to see if more people are being driven to shoplift.**

**Can you tell me the number of shoplifting incidents reported/recorded each year which occurred in the Renfrewshire and Inverclyde police division area between 2002-2022. It would be preferable if you could break it down into Renfrewshire incidents and Inverclyde incidents.**

Please be advised that statistics regarding shoplifting offences are publicly available.

As such, in terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought. Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

- (a) states that it holds the information,
- (b) states that it is claiming an exemption,
- (c) specifies the exemption in question and
- (d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information that you have requested and the exemption that I consider to be applicable is set out at Section 25(1) of the Act - information otherwise accessible:

*“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under Section 1(1) is exempt information”*

The information you are seeking is available on the Police Scotland website, broken down into council area and Police Divisional area, via the following link:

[How we are performing - Police Scotland](#)

Older statistics can be found on the Scottish Government website:-

[statistics.gov.scot : Recorded Crimes and Offences](#)

## OFFICIAL

**Can you also tell me what category of items were stolen and/or the category of shop? For instance, was it from a supermarket or from a clothes store?**

In response to this question, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

As such, and in terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

By way of explanation, in order to provide an accurate response to your request, each of these offences would have to be individually examined to establish what the item(s) were taken in each instance and the type of shop involved.

Unfortunately, whilst information regarding the type of property stolen and locus is recorded in each case, the only way to access this data is via each individual crime report. Therefore this would be an exercise which would far exceed the cost limit set on in the Fees Regulations.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management Dundee, quoting the reference number given.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions. Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to [foi@scotland.police.uk](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.