| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-0139  Responded to: 08 February 2023 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**a)How many reports of fuel/ heating oil theft has your force received since January 2022 to as close to today's date as possible?**

**b)How many arrests have been made relating to theft of fuel/ heating oil since January 2022 to as close to today's date as possible?**

Having considered your request in terms of the Act, 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, the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to manually examine each and every crime report in relation to several classifications of crimes of dishonesty to establish whether fuel or heating oil is listed as stolen property. This is an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

To illustrate, the most recent [published figures](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/k2xjphf2/force-area-quarter-accessibility-quarter-1-april-to-september-2022.xlsx) show that as of quarter 2 of this financial year, there were 15, 221 recorded crimes of Theft. Unfortunately, whilst information regarding the type of property stolen is recorded in each case, the only way to access this data is via each individual crime report.

If you require any further assistance please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.