| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-3052Responded to: 15 December 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I would like to gain access to data of the total number of police forces that are using video doorbell footage as evidence for theft and home burglaries in the Scotland area in each month of 2022 and 2023.

Your request has been interpreted as seeking the number of theft/ theft housebreaking crimes in which doorbell footage was listed as a production in the case.

Therefore, 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 examine each and every potential crime report such as theft and housebreaking for the time period requested to establish whether a request for footage from a doorbell camera is listed as a production. There are no relevant markers which allow the automatic retrieval of this level of information.

To illustrate the numbers involved, [published crime statistics](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/) show that for as at Q4 of the 2022/23 financial year, there were 28,720 recorded crimes of Theft.

In more general terms, I can advise that PS would use any available evidence, including doorbell footage and this is often mentioned in our appeals to the public - eg [Police Scotland appeal for information following break-in and theft, Peebles - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/what-s-happening/news/2023/september/appeal-for-information-following-break-in-and-theft-peebles/)

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 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 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.