| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23- 2066Responded to: xx September 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## This request is related to 'keyless' vehicle thefts. I appreciate that this is not a recorded crime type specifically. However, would you be able to provide the following for the period January 1, 2023, to June 30, 2023

## For offences recorded under: Theft or Unauthorised Taking of a Motor Vehicle

## The total number of recorded offences that include "keyless" or "relay" within any free text, electronically searchable, fields

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 crime recording systems used by Police Scotland have no facility whereby the methodology of how the vehicles were broken into can be easily extracted.

Case by case assessment of all relevant crimes would have to be carried out to establish these details which, as evidenced by the statistics above, would involve individually examining thousands of crime reports even for the limited time period requested - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

Furthermore the crime recording systems used by Police Scotland have no facility which allows for us to search crime reports on the basis of presence of specific words or phrases, nor is it possible to conduct a force wide keyword search for terms which may or not be included depending on the free text entered.

In conclusion, the only way to establish the specifics of your request would be to examine all relevant crimes of MV Theft for the time periods requested. Unfortunately, whilst this information is recorded in each case, the only way to access this data is to manually read each individual crime report, an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the fee regulations set out in the Act.

To illustrate the numbers involved, our published [crime statistics](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/) show that for only part of the time period in question (Q4 of financial year 2022/23) there were 3075 recorded Motor Vehicle Crimes.

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.