

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0801
Date: 28 April 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.

1. For each of the years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 - How many crime reports recorded the theft of a legally owned firearm?

Having considered this question 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 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, published figures shows that at Q4 for the 2020/21 financial year, there were 22, 306 recorded crimes of common 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.

You can access our published crime statistics via the following link: [How we are performing - Police Scotland](#)

- 2. For each of the years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 - How many crime reports involved the possession of a converted firearm (Non-prohibitive, top venting, firing weapons) as proscribed under Section 4A of the Firearms Act 1968?**
- 3. For each of the years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 - How many crime reports involved the use of a converted firearm (Non-prohibitive, top venting, firing weapons) as proscribed under Section 4A of the Firearms Act 1968?**

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- a. Of those crime reports - for each of the years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 - How many related to injury or serious injury?**
- b. Of those crime reports - for each of the years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 - How many related to Deaths?**

In response to these questions, I can also advise you that 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 relevant crime report. To illustrate data shown below data shows a breakdown of firearm offences 2017-2021.

Firearms, Miscellaneous Offences	439	420	559	436	370	2224
Possess a firearm w/i to endanger life etc.	73	91	108	110	88	470
Reckless conduct with firearms	39	35	39	38	46	197
Grand Total	551	546	706	584	504	2891

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee on foi@scotland.police.uk 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 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 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.

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