

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2274
Date: 16th November 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 wish to enquire about reported pick pocketing hot spots within the Police policing area during the month of December. Could you please supply to following information:

- 1. The ten (10) locations (local authorities) within your policing area, where your force has received the highest number of reported pickpocketing crimes, during the month of December, between the years 2017-2021**
- 2. The total number of reported pickpocketing crimes in each of the top ten (10) locations specified, during the month of December between 2017-2021**
- 3. The total loss of value from pickpocketing crimes in each of the top ten (10) locations specified, each year during the month of December between 2017-2021**
- 4. The item(s) that are reported to be stolen the most within each top five locations**

In response to these questions, 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, crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the Scottish Government Justice Department offence classification codes and in this instance, any such incident of 'pick pocketing' would be recorded under the general classifications of Theft, robbery etc. depending on the circumstances.

As such, case by case assessment of all Theft related offences would have to be carried out to establish the circumstances of the offence and determine whether it was relevant to your request.

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As illustrated by our [Published Statistics](#), this would involve individually examining tens of thousands of crime reports for the time period requested - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out 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 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.

