

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2732  
Date: 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023



## **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'm just getting in touch to ask for information from your force about car theft reports and recovery rates.**

**I am requesting this information under the Freedom of Information Act.**

**I am looking to limit my questions to cars rather than bikes, mopeds or commercial vans.**

**If this is not possible, please make this clear and provide figures for all vehicle thefts.**

**If the cost limit is close to being breached, please prioritise the questions from first to last (1-6).**

- 1. Please provide the number of stolen car reports your force has received over the last five years. Please categorise the results by calendar years as so: (a) 2022 (b) 2021 (c) 2020 (d) 2019 (e) 2018. Where the 2022 stats will not be complete, please provide the date they go up to.**
- 2. For each of these years please provide figures for how many reported stolen cars were successfully recovered. As above, please categorise these figures by (a) 2022 (b) 2021 (c) 2020 (d) 2019 and (e) 2018.**
- 3. If the cost limit for this request has not yet been reached, please provide figures for how many of the reportedly stolen vehicles mentioned in the prior question were recovered by the force and officers itself, rather than by another party (the victim, a third party employed by the victim, neighbours, through social media etc). As above, please provide figures for the last five calendar years.**
- 4. If the cost limit for this request has still not been reached, could you please provide figures for how many reportedly stolen vehicles were recovered by the victim, a third party employed by them or someone who made contact with them rather than the police force. As above, please provide figures for the last five calendar years.**

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5. **If the cost limit has still not been reached, please provide figures for how many stolen car reports resulted in charges being brought against a suspect. As above, please provide figures for the last five calendar years.**
6. **If the cost limit has still not been reached, how many stolen car reports have resulted in convictions. As above, please provide figures for the last five calendar years.**

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 are not thereafter sub-categorised.

In this instance, the relevant crime classification is '*Theft of a motor vehicle*' however this classification covers all motor vehicles and is not thereafter sub-categorised by vehicle type.

The only way to establish whether the stolen vehicle was a car, and also any information relating to recovery, would be to carry out case by case assessment of all Theft of a Motor Vehicle offences.

This would involve individually examining 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.

To be of some assistance, recorded and detected Theft of a Motor Vehicle crime statistics are publicly available on the Police Scotland website:-

[How we are performing - Police Scotland](#)

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](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

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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](mailto: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.

