| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2377  Responded to: 28th September 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## We wish to study vehicle theft trends between the years of 2018 and 2022.

## For further clarification, the columns should contain the following information:

## - Make – The manufacturer of the vehicle

## - GenModel – The generic make and model of the vehicle. The naming schema should follow the same format found within the VEH0124 files found on “https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/vehicle-licensing-statistics-data-files”

## - YearManufacture – The year the vehicle was manufactured

## - LicenceStatus – Whether the vehicle was Licensed or SORN

## - DATE COLUMNS – Each should refer to the number of vehicles, under the same GenModel, YearManufacture and LicenceStatus, that were stolen within the specifc year (a value of “[z]” denoting the vehicle had yet to be manufactured

## O 2022

## O 2021

## O 2020

## O 2019

## O 2018

Please be advised that statistics regarding Theft of Motor Vehicle offences are publicly available.

As such, in terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought. Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

(a) states that it holds the information,

(b) states that it is claiming an exemption,

(c) specifies the exemption in question and

(d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information that you have requested and the exemption that I consider to be applicable is set out at Section 25(1) of the Act - information otherwise accessible:

*“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under Section 1(1) is exempt information”*

The information you are seeking is available on the Police Scotland website via the following link:

[How we are performing - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/)

In relation to your request for a breakdown by make, model etc. of the stolen vehicles, 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 level of details requested can be easily extracted.

The only way to establish this information is to carry out case by case assessment of each and every crime report for Theft of a Motor Vehicle offences.

As illustrated by the above published statistics, this would involve individually examining a vast number of reports - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

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](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) 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](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) 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.