| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-2008  Responded to: 04 July 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**1 - The number of reported fuel theft incidents or “bilking” offences (i.e. making off without payment from petrol stations) broken down monthly from January 2020 to the most recent available month in 2025.**

**2 - If recorded, the estimated total value of fuel stolen each month (or year).**

**3 - The number of these incidents that resulted in:**

1. **A suspect being identified**
2. **An arrest**
3. **Charges filed**
4. **A conviction**

**4 - The number or proportion of these cases that were closed without a suspect identified or charged.**

**5 - If recorded, how many incidents involved the use of fake, cloned or unregistered number plates**

**6 - As part of investigations into fuel theft incidents, does your force routinely request or receive data from any of the following systems (if known):**

1. **CCTV surveillance**
2. **Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)**
3. **Forecourt fuel monitoring or wetstock systems**

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

By way of explanation, crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the [Scottish Government Justice Department (SGJD)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/user-guide-recorded-crime-statistics-scotland-3/documents/) offence classifications.

Any such incidents would be recorded as theft - there is no distinct categorisation for fuel theft.

For the period covered by your request, we cannot search theft crime reports based on the nature of the stolen property being fuel or based on the locus being a petrol station.

The only way to research your request would be a case by case assessment of a vast number of crime reports - an exercise which would clearly exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

To be of assistance, crime data can be accessed online - [Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/).

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](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) 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.