

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0707  
Date: 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

**I'm hoping you can help me in my research into robberies of independent retailers and goods from their vehicles from outside cash & carries/wholesale depots. I've been contacted by shop owners concerned about this becoming a more common occurrence and I believe there is strong public interest for this to be published.**

**Please could you provide the following information:**

**The address, crime date, offence type, crime reference number and theft value (if logged/applicable) of each crime reported between December 1 2019 and December 1 2021 that include any of the search terms listed below and any of the criminal offence types listed below.**

**Search terms:**

- Cash and carry
- Cash & carry
- Depot
- Wholesale
- Costco
- Booker
- Bestway
- Parfetts
- Dhamecha
- Blakemore
- Filshill

**\*Criminal offence types requested:**

- Burglary
- Theft (including from a vehicle and in transit)
- Robbery (including armed)
- Violence against the person

Having considered your request in terms of the above 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.

## OFFICIAL

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 specific premises such as Cash & Carries or Wholesale Depots can be automatically identified.

It is also not possible to carry out a search for specific terms or keywords on our systems.

The only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to individually examine all Theft, Housebreaking (non-domestic), Shoplifting etc. crime reports for the time period requested, establish the locus details and extract the requested details.

As illustrated by our [published crime statistics](#), this would involve case by case assessment of tens of thousands of crim reports - 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](mailto: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](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.