| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-1981  Responded to: xx August 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Please provide me with a list of theft offences recorded which include the word 'church' in the summary for 2022 and 2023 so far.

## For each offence, provide the date, location, summary and outcome.

Having considered your question in terms of the 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.

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, there are no markers etc. on any of our crime recording systems to indicate whether an offence occurred in a church. Therefore, the only way to establish the specifics of your request would be to examine all relevant crimes of dishonesty for the time periods requested. As such this an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

Unfortunately, whilst this information is recorded in each case, the only way to access this data, is to manually read each individual crime report. There are no relevant markers which allow the automatic retrieval of this level of detail.

By way of explanation, the crime recording systems used by Police Scotland have no facility which allows for us to search crime reports on the basis of presence of specific words or phrases, nor is it possible to conduct a force wide keyword search.

As such, the only way to establish whether the keywords mentioned in your request were present within a crime report, would be to carry out case by case assessment of all crime reports for the time period requested.

This would involve case by case assessment of a vast number of crime reports, and as such this is an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the fee regulations set out in the Act. To illustrate the numbers involved, our published [crime statistics](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/) show that for the financial year 2022/23 there were 28,720 recorded crimes of Theft.

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.