| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-1824Responded to: 25th June 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## For the year ending March 2024 –

## How many incidents of shoplifting were reported to the police?

The information sought is held by Police Scotland, but I am refusing to provide it in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the section 25(1) exemption applies:

“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it […] is exempt information”.

However, to be of assistance, I can advise you that the information sought is publicly available on the Police Scotland website ([How we are performing - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/)). I can thus refer you to our ‘recorded’ crime statistics, which are available broken down by Multi-Member Ward areas, with the most recent figures due to be updated in the next few weeks:

[Crime data - Police Scotland​](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

In this instance, within the spreadsheet, there is a crime classification description that will be able to provide useful information: ‘theft by shoplifting’.

## Of these shoplifting incidents, how many were closed by the police due to -

## no suspect having been identified

## evidential difficulties outcome

## any other reasons

## Of these shoplifting incidents, how many resulted in Out-of-Court disposals -

## a caution

## a conditional caution

## a Fixed Penalty Notice/on-the-spot fine

## any other disposal

## Of these shoplifting incidents, how many were -

## referred to the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service

In response to these questions, unfortunately, I regret to inform you that I estimate 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, I can advise that we are unable to automatically extract the level of detail you requested from every relevant shoplifting crime report – i.e. outcome of case (case dismissed, case resolved out-of-court, case referred etc.). Therefore, the only way to provide an accurate response would be to conduct a manual case-by-case assessment of each ‘theft by shoplifting’ report to ascertain the course of action taken. Given the volume of reports that would be required to be read through for the year period specified, this exercise would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

However, if it were of interest, the spreadsheet available online (linked above in the first response) also includes ‘detected’ crime data. In this case, ‘detected’ crimes are those where an accused has been *identified* and there exists a *sufficiency of evidence* under Scots Law to justify consideration of criminal proceedings.

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 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 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.