| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-0098  Responded to: 27th January 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I am requesting a yearly breakdown of the number of stolen cars reported to your police force which are privately and business owned, and the number of these reports which are then investigated. I am requesting figures for the past three years.

## In particular, can you provide me with:

## A yearly breakdown of the total number of reported stolen cars. Could you please provide a breakdown for the past three years, including 2020, 2021, 2022

## A yearly breakdown of the number of reported stolen cars that were privately owned and, separately, business owned. Could you please provide a breakdown for the past three years, including 2020, 2021, 2022

## A yearly breakdown of the number of privately owned stolen car reports that were then investigated by your police force. Could you please provide a breakdown for the past three years, including 2020, 2021, 2022

## A yearly breakdown of the number of business owned stolen car reports that were then investigated by your police force. Could you please provide a breakdown for the past three years, including 2020, 2021, 2022

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.

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, crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the Scottish

Government Justice Department offence classification codes and are not thereafter sub-categorised.

In this instance, the relevant crime classification is ‘Theft of a motor vehicle’ however this classification covers all motor vehicles and is not thereafter sub-categorised by vehicle type.

The only way to establish whether the stolen vehicle was a car, and also any information relating to ownership, would be to carry out case by case assessment of all Theft of a Motor Vehicle offences.

This would involve individually examining thousands of crime reports for the time period requested - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees

Regulations.

To be of some assistance, recorded and detected Theft of a Motor Vehicle crime statistics are 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/)

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.