

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0766
Date: 26 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.

- 1. In total, how many of the cars reported as stolen in 2021 were located and returned to the owner?**
- 2. Of the cars located and returned to their owners last year, please provide the total amount of time between the vehicle being stolen and the vehicle being returned**
- 3. If possible, please provide the location(s) in which these returned vehicles were found:**
 - **In transport (e.g. whilst being driven on a motorway)**
 - **At a port**
 - **Garage**
 - **On a street**
 - **Online (i.e. identified through a sale listing)**
 - **Public car park**
 - **Private car park**
 - **Field or other public space**
- 4. Of the cars reported as stolen in 2021, how many of them were found to have been 'dumped' or 'dropped' by the thief?**

Having considered these questions 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, the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to manually examine each and every crime report in relation to Theft of Motor

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Vehicles and Housebreaking to establish the specifics in your questions. This is an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

To illustrate, the most recent published figures show that as at Q3 for the 2021/22 financial year, there were 6, 444 recorded crimes of Housebreaking. Unfortunately, whilst information regarding the type of property stolen is recorded in each case, the only way to access this data is via each individual crime report.

You can access our published crime statistics via the following link: [How we are performing - Police Scotland](#)

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee on foidundee@scotland.police.uk 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 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 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.

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