| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-1997Responded to: xx August 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 1. Records of stolen fossils in Lanarkshire/Ayrshire circa 1984-1994 - shouldn't be much information (if any) but unsure of dates.

## 2. Any theft or wildlife crime related to fossils or palaeontology from 2000 till present date, again shouldn't be much so hopefully not time consuming.

## 3. Damage to sites of special scientific interest (SSSI) from 2000 till present date.

In response to the part of your request which refers to the time period prior to the inception of Police Scotland in April 2013, I must advise you that Police Scotland does not hold the requested information. In terms of Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a formal notice that information is not held.

Having considered your questions in relation to the more recent reporting periods under the 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, even in a modern crime recording system there are no markers etc. to indicate the type of property stolen. Similarly there are no markers or methodology which allow the automatic retrieval of details about the type of locus e.g. whether it was SSSI.

Furthermore 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.

In conclusion, the only way to establish the specifics of your request would be to examine all relevant crimes of dishonesty for the time periods requested. Unfortunately, whilst this information is recorded in each case, the only way to access this data is to manually read each individual crime report, 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 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 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.