

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1905  
Date: 29<sup>th</sup> September 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.

**The total number of van/Light Commercial Vehicle (LCV) thefts reported between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022, as well as for the previous year between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021. Please provide the numbers broken down by year and month.**

**If available, please provide a breakdown of where the van/LCV thefts occurred (eg: home, car park, work etc.) for the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022. Please provide the numbers/locations broken down by month.**

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 classification would be Theft of a Motor Vehicle. However, the same classification is used for theft of all types of vehicles.

As such, the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to individually examine all Theft of Motor Vehicle offences, as well as Housebreaking etc. crimes, for the time period requested to establish if the vehicle stolen was a van or LCV.

As illustrated by our [published statistics](#), this would involve carrying out case by case assessment of thousands of crime reports - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

## OFFICIAL

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management Dundee, 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](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalrnarnock, 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](mailto: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.