| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-1165Responded to: 28 April 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**I would be grateful if you could provide the following information for each of the past three calendar years: 2022, 2023, and 2024. If possible, please complete the attached Excel form. If now, please respond to the questions as listed below:**

## 1. Total Number of Tool Theft Cases

## How many reports of tool theft have been recorded annually in your jurisdiction?Of these, how many involved thefts from vehicles, homes, and commercial premises?

Unfortunately, I estimate that 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.

To explain, for the time period covered by your request, we are unable to search crime reports based on the nature of the stolen property associated.

## 2. Investigation & Case Closure Rates

## What is the average length of time spent investigating each reported tool theft case before it is closed?How many tool theft cases were closed within the following timeframes: 24 hours, 48 hours, One week, One monthHow many cases remain open beyond one month?

The information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

By way of explanation, Police Scotland do not mark cases as “closed”. Police Scotland record crime as “recorded” and “detected” in accordance with the Scottish Crime Recording Standard. Police Scotland does not use Home Office outcome classifications.

**3. Arrests, Charges, and Convictions**

## How many tool theft cases resulted in an arrest each year?How many led to formal charges?

In response to the two points above, please see the response to question 1.

## How many resulted in a conviction?

Police Scotland does not hold criminal conviction/ prosecution data and section 17 of the Act therefore applies. You may wish to contact the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) and/ or the Scottish Courts Service.

## 4. Recovery of Stolen Tools

## How many cases resulted in the recovery of stolen tools?What percentage of recovered tools were returned to their original owners?

Again, in response to the two points above, please see the response to question 1.

## 5. Police Resources & Prioritisation

## How many officers (FTE) are assigned to investigate tool theft cases?Are tool theft cases given a specific priority level compared to other property crimes?

The information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

Police Scotland do not have a dedicated tool theft unit, nor is it a specific incident classification in terms of resource and response prioritisation.

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.