

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1320
Date: 06 July 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.

I'm about to start a research project about tool and van theft and I was hoping could you send me the following data available in your area on the following points, with figures be broken down by year to cover the period May 2019 to May 2021 inclusive.

- **Please could you provide statistics for the total number of recorded vans/light commercial vehicles stolen (please prioritise this information)**
- **The total number of recorded incidents of contents theft from vans/light commercial vehicles (please prioritise this information)**
- **Any specific locations (streets / postcodes) where majority of the above-mentioned crimes or offences have been reported (nice to have, but not essential)**
- **Additionally, please could you share statistics on the total value of the items stolen either collectively, or per van/light commercial vehicle (nice to have, but not essential)**

Having considered this question 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, Police Scotland record crimes using the Scottish Government Justice Department crime classification codes. In this case, the classification would be Theft of/from a Motor Vehicle. Therefore the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to manually examine each and every one of the relevant crime reports to establish what type of vehicle was involved and then extract the additional details of your request. Unfortunately, whilst information regarding the type of vehicle stolen and other items taken is recorded in each case, the only way to access this data is via each individual crime report. Therefore given the volume of reports this is an exercise which would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

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You may be interested in our published crime statistics: [How we are performing - Police Scotland](#)

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee at 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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