| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-1172  Responded to: 19th May 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## The number of businesses who were victims of vaping-related crimes for the periods of January 2022 – April 2022 and January 2023 and April 2023.

## The key search terms I am seeking in relation to the type of business are; convenience store, corner shop, grocery store, supermarket, newsagent, symbol group, tobacconist, off licence and independent retailer.

## The key terms I am seeking in relation to the crime are theft, robbery, ram raid, assault, burglary, disposable vape, vape, Elfbar, Elf Bar, Lost Mary, IVG and SKE Crystal.

## Could you also provide the name the affected businesses traded under and their address.

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 sub-categorised.

The crime recording systems used by Police Scotland have no facility which can automatically identify vaping related crimes, nor is there a facility which allows us to search for the specific type of retail premises listed.

As such, case by case assessment of all crime reports for all Theft related offences, as a minimum, would have to be carried out to establish details of the locus, and determine whether the crime was in relation to Vapes.

As illustrated by our [published statistics](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/), this would involve individually examining tens of thousands of reports for the time period requested - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

It should also be noted that 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 and again, case by case assessment is required.

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](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) 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](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) 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.