

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1796
Date: 7th 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.

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information relating to tool theft in the period 2011-2022. If this period is too extensive can this be provided for 2017-2022 inclusive. I require this information in calendar years.

- 1. How many crimes have been reported regarding tool theft, including theft of a vehicle containing tools?**
- 2. What was the reported value of the tools stolen each year?**

In response to these questions, 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, there are no relevant markers available on Police Scotland crime recording systems which allow the automatic retrieval of this level of information, and so it is not possible to search for crime reports based upon the type of property stolen.

As such, the only way to provide you with this information in an accurate and consistent manner would be to individually examine each and every crime report for all Theft offences, including Housebreaking etc. committed from the time period requested, to establish whether the property stolen was tools.

As illustrated by our [published statistics](#), this would involve case by case assessment of a vast number of crime reports, and as such this is an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the fee regulations set out in the Act.

3. How many of the tool theft cases reported led to prosecution?

Police Scotland does not hold prosecution information. As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

You may wish to contact the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscals Service (COPFS) which holds prosecution information for Scotland. A request can be submitted to COPFS via email using the following address foi@copfs.gsi.gov.uk

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 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.