| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-1220  Responded to: 27th May 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Please can you provide the following information from 01/05/2019 to 01/05/2024 -

## The total number of shoplifting offences logged by the force.

For the period 1 May 2019 to 1 May 2024 Police Scotland recorded 142,260 shoplifting offences:

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| **Calendar Year** | **2019\*** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024\*** |
| Shoplifting recorded crimes | 20,886 | 22,979 | 21,263 | 26,777 | 36,725 | 13,630 |

\* Part year data - May to December 2019 and January to May 2024.  
All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information.   
All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 20/5/2024. Data was extracted using the crime's raised date and SGJD code 302203 - Theft by Shoplifting.

## Of those, the number of shoplifting offences that were listed as occurring at a supermarket, or mentioned Tesco, ASDA, Sainsbury’s, Aldi, Lidl, Morrison’s, Iceland, Waitrose or Marks and Spencer

Due to the large numbers of recorded offences, I unfortunately 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.

By way of explanation, offences are not recorded by locus of business type i.e., supermarkets.

To find this information each of the 142,260 records would need to be manually assessed to determine relevance. This is an exercise that would far exceed the cost threshold set out within the Act.

## The number of shoplifting offences that led to an arrest

The Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 removed the separate concepts of arrest and detention and replaced them with a power of arrest without warrant - where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting a person has committed, or is committing, an offence.

When a person is arrested, a statement of arrest should be read over as soon as reasonably practicable, and details recorded in the arresting officer’s notebook.

A person is ‘Not Officially Accused’ (a suspect) when arrested *and* *not* cautioned and charged. They are ‘Officially Accused’ once arrested *and* cautioned and charged.

If conveyed to a police station, the arrested person will have their details recorded in our National Custody System.

There are situations however whereby a person must be released from police custody prior to their arrival at a police station - effectively they are ‘de-arrested’ - where the reasonable grounds for suspicion no longer exist. In those circumstances, the details of an arrested person are not held electronically.

As a result, we are unfortunately unable to collate comprehensivearrest data, as case by case assessment of all officer notebooks would be required - in addition to the partialarrest data held in the National Custody System.

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request and I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

If you would be interested in data regarding only those individuals arrested *and brought into police custody,* we may be able to provide some data.

For the reasons outlined above, Police Scotland do not routinely or otherwise collate data on ‘arrests’.

Instead, data is compiled and published based on recorded and detected crimes - [Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/).

## The number of shoplifting offences that led to a charge or summons

## The number of shoplifting offences that led to no further action being taken

Home Office outcome categories do not extend to Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies. The information sought is not held by Police Scotland.

Crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the [Scottish Crime Recording Standard](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/p0nfjj2c/scottish-crime-recording-standard-crime-recording-and-counting-rules-april-2021.pdf?view=Standard) and crimes are reported as recorded or detected.

Detected crimes are those where an accused has been identified and there exists a sufficiency of evidence under Scots Law to justify consideration of criminal proceedings.

Corresponding data can be accessed online - [Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/).

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.