| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 24-2830Responded to: 13 December 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 1. How many reports of shoplifting incidents in Inverclyde did police receive in calendar years 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 YTD.

I have included tables at the bottom of this letter providing you with information requested above. Table 1 refers.

## 2. For each year, please provide a breakdown of the items that were stolen or the individual was attempting to steal.

With regards to dates prior to 2024 I can advise you that Police Scotland does not hold the requested information. In terms of Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a formal notice that information is not held.

However, I have provided a breakdown of stolen property for Shoplifting for 2024. Table 2 refers.

## 3. How many shoplifting detections were recorded in each of the above years and how many shoplifting reports were recorded?

I have included tables at the bottom of this letter providing you with information requested above. Table 3 refers.

## 4. For each of the above years’ totals, please indicate how many of the incidents involved repeat shoplifting offenders.

With regards to dates prior to 2024 I can advise you that Police Scotland does not hold the requested information. In terms of Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a formal notice that information is not held.

However, I have provided repeat accused in Shoplifting offences for 2024. Table 4 refers.

## 5. How many of these incidents are believed to have involved organised shoplifting gangs?

I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested above. Therefore, in accordance with Sections 12(1) (Excessive cost of compliance) and 16(4) (Refusal of request) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (the Act), this letter represents a Refusal Notice.

By way of explanation, to identify if they were involved in organised shoplifting gangs I would need to individually look at each incident to identify if this had been recorded. This task would therefore take well in excess of the 40 hour and £600 cost limit prescribed by the Scottish Ministers.

## 6. Do the police have any intelligence about any organised shoplifting gangs operating in Inverclyde or being involved in incidents in Inverclyde? If so, please state what this is.

In terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to confirm or deny whether the information sought exists or is held by Police Scotland in terms of section 18 of the Act.

Section 18 applies where the following two conditions are met:

 - It would be contrary to the public interest to reveal whether the information is held

- If the information was held, it would be exempt from disclosure in terms of one or more of the exemptions set out in sections 28 to 35, 38, 39(1) or 41 of the Act.

In this instance, if the information was held, 35 (1) (a) & (b) of the Act would apply.

By way of background, a public authority can refuse to confirm or deny whether it holds information, provided it is satisfied that revealing whether the information exists or is held would be contrary to the public interest. In such instances, it is recognised that harm exists even in confirming or denying in the public domain that the information is held.

In this instance, I believe it would be contrary to the public interest to reveal whether or not the information sought exists or is held.

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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/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.

Table 1

Recorded Storm incidents with Shoplifting, Inverclyde (KC Sub Division)

Period: 1st January 2021 – 31st October 2024 (calendar years)

| **Local Authority** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024\*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Inverclyde | 327 | 407 | 547 | 530 |

Table 2

Stolen Property from recorded Shoplifting Offences, Inverclyde (KC Sub Division)

Period: 1st January 2024 – 31st October 2024

| **Property category** | **Number of stolen property** |
| --- | --- |
| Audio Visual | 6 |
| Business | 2 |
| Commercial | 17 |
| Construction & DIY | 15 |
| Consumer goods | 454 |
| Gardening | 1 |
| Groceries  | 229 |
| Household | 22 |
| Jewellery | 2 |
| Leisure & Hobbies | 5 |
| Other | 13 |
| Personal Effects | 29 |
| Sports | 1 |

Table 3

Detected Shoplifting Offences, Inverclyde (KC Sub Division)

| **Local Authority** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024\*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Inverclyde | 335 | 442 | 394 | 405 |

Table 4

Repeat accused in Shoplifting Offences, Inverclyde (KC Sub Division)

Period: 1st January 2024 – 31st October 2024

| **Local Authority** | **No of unique accused** |
| --- | --- |
| Detected for single crimes | 64 |
| Detected for multiple crimes | 71 |