

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0577
Date: 22 March 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.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I'd like to make a request regarding information on reports of theft of building materials - specifically lead and copper.

Specifically, I'd like to request the number of reports of theft where lead and/or copper materials have been stolen from the time period 2017 to 2022 (or if 2022 data is not available then data from 2017 - 2021 would be great).

Please could you also show the town/city where the theft has taken place, and the type of building or site that the material was stolen from (eg. a church, residential property, construction site).

Finally, in each reported case please advise whether any arrests were made and if so, whether there were any prosecutions.

Having considered your request 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 classifications would be all classifications of Theft and Housebreaking. 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 was stolen and then extract the additional details of your request. Unfortunately, whilst information regarding items stolen 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 on foi@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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