| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-2911  Responded to: 2 December 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**I would like to request the follow information:**

**Reports of shoplifting offences have you had to your police force in the following years: 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024.**

The information sought is publicly available:

[How we are performing - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/)

[Recorded crime in Scotland - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/collections/recorded-crime-in-scotland/)

[[ARCHIVED CONTENT] Crime and Justice - Publications - Recorded Crime](https://webarchive.nrscotland.gov.uk/20191010062103/http:/www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime)

The information is therefore held by Police Scotland, but I am refusing to provide it in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the section 25(1) exemption applies:

“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it […] is exempt information”.

**People charged with shoplifting offences by your police force in the following years: 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024.**

**Could you also provide a break down in your answer - as specifically as your data permits - as to what kind of shoplifting offence was committed each year, by percentage.**

**And just to add one more request as part of this:**

**Reports of shoplifting offences have you had to your police force in the following years involving theft by eating food in a store before buying and throwing away the packet: 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024.**

In accordance with our [Record Retention Procedure](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/nhobty5i/record-retention-sop.docx), many of the associated crime reports will no longer be held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act would therefore apply in respect of those.

As regards all other crime reports, I 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.

To explain, each crime report, which will be thousands for the period, would have to be individually assessed to extract and note the information required.

The links provided above do however include data on detected, as well as recorded crimes.

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.

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.