| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-2706Responded to: 2nd November 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 1 How many offences of shoplifting/theft from shops has your force recorded in each month of 2022 and 2023 to date?

Please be advised that statistics regarding Theft and Shoplifting offences are publicly available.

As such, in terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought. Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

(a) states that it holds the information,

(b) states that it is claiming an exemption,

(c) specifies the exemption in question and

(d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information that you have requested and the exemption that I consider to be applicable is set out at Section 25(1) of the Act - information otherwise accessible:

*“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under Section 1(1) is exempt information”*

The information you are seeking is available on the Police Scotland website via the following link:

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

## 2. Please break these down by category of item stolen in each month ie groceries 250 / electrical 100 / jewellery 25

## 3. If you record the value of items stolen, please list the top five highest value thefts

## 4. If possible please list the top five retailers where the offences took place in each year ie Tesco 1000 / Aldi 750

## 5. How old was the a) youngest and b) oldest suspect your force arrested or otherwise dealt with in regard to shoplifting

## 6. For each of 2022 and 2023 to date, please provide a breakdown of outcomes for shoplifting ie 300 charged / 25 cautioned / 10 PND

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, the crime recording systems used by Police Scotland have no facility whereby this level of detail can be easily extracted.

The only way to provide you with an accurate response would be to individually examine all Theft related crime reports for the specified time period and extract the requested details.

As illustrated by our published statistics, this would involve carrying out case by case assessment of thousands of reports - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

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.