| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-3036Responded to: 20 December 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Could you please provide information on the number of items stolen/reports of items stolen from police vehicles and police stations/offices in Police Scotland's Renfrewshire & Inverclyde division over the last five years (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 to date)?

Firstly, with regards to providing you with details of the number of items stolen/reported stolen from Police vehicles, 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 provide this we would require us to check with every Response Police Officer within Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Division to identify if anything had been stolen from within their Police vehicle. This would be well in excess of the £600 and 40 hours prescribed by the Scottish Ministers under the Act to identify this information.

With regards to thefts from Police Stations within Renfrewshire an Inverclyde Police Station over this time period I can advise there were two incidents.

## Can you please provide a breakdown of the items stolen and their value, when they were stolen, where they were stolen from (street/town/village/local authority and whether they were from a station/vehicle) and whether they were Police Scotland property or otherwise?

## Can you also tell me the status of the theft reports (detected/person charged or undetected)?

## If you're able to provide a rough summary of the events for each of the thefts that would be much appreciated.

With regards to providing details of the investigation, in accordance with section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 I am refusing to disclose the above requested information.

Section 16 of the Act requires Police Scotland, when refusing to provide such information because the information 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.

The information requested is held and the exemptions applicable are as follows:

**Section 34(1) (a) (i) & (b) – Investigations by a Scottish public authority and proceedings arising out of such investigations**

Information is exempt information if it has at any time been held by Police Scotland for the purposes of an investigation which may lead to a decision to make a report to the Procurator Fiscal to enable it to be determined whether criminal proceedings should be instituted.

This is a non-absolute exemption and requires the application of the public interest test.

**Public Interest Test**

I appreciate there is a degree of interest in the release of such information: however this must be tempered against what is of interest to the public and what is in the public interest.

It is in the public interest that an understanding exists as to the processes involved in police investigations and in their relative success. This is particularly true in investigations, therefore, accountability and transparency relating to the actions of Police Scotland and its officers would favour disclosure of the information.

That said, a decision for non-disclosure follows consideration of ongoing or likely criminal investigations and the efficient and effective conduct of Police Scotland in relation to such investigations.

Additionally, when the Freedom of Information Bill was considered by the Scottish Parliament, the then Lord Advocate stated that the exemptions detailed in section 34(1) were essential for an effective justice system.

Accordingly, to provide details of these thefts is outweighed by the harm that could be created by revealing information.

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.