| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-1747  Responded to: 21 July 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## a) The number of theft offences where the scene of the crime was a beach hut, reported to your force in each of the following financial years (2020/2021, 2021/2022 and 2022/2023);

## b) The number of those incidents that resulted in a charge or summons, also broken down by financial year; and

## c) The number of those incidents where the investigation was closed with no suspect identified, also broken down by financial year.

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, crimes in Scotland are recorded using the Scottish Government Justice Department crime classification codes rather than by location type such as beach hut. Specifically with regard to your request, there are several classifications of crimes of dishonesty that would have to be manually examined to establish whether the location was a beach hut. Therefore, this is an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

To illustrate, the most recent [published figures](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/svplwv3q/management-information-force-report-quarter-4-2022-23.xlsx) show that as of quarter 4 of 2022/23 financial year, there were 28, 720 recorded crimes of Theft and 1,297 of Theft by OLP(opening lockfast place).

You may find the [Scottish Crime Recording Standard](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/p0nfjj2c/scottish-crime-recording-standard-crime-recording-and-counting-rules-april-2021.pdf?view=Standard) useful.

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.