| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 24-2874Responded to: xx December 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

Please note, for clarity and to avoid repetition your questions have been reordered.

## I would like to submit a freedom of information request about shoplifting during Christmas time.

## Q1. How many shoplifting crimes were reported in Scotland as a whole during the months of October to January in the last five years (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023)

## The requested information is provided below in terms of recorded and detected offences.

## For clarity, a crime or offence is regarded as having been detected where there exists a sufficiency of evidence under Scots Law to justify consideration of criminal proceedings.

## Table 1: Recorded shoplifting offences across Scotland

## Time period: Oct, Nov & Dec each year, 2019 to 2023:

| **Time period** | **Recorded shoplifting offences** |
| --- | --- |
| 01/10/2019 - 31/12/2019 | 7,523 |
| 01/10/2020 - 31/12/2020 | 5,662 |
| 01/10/2021 - 31/12/2021 | 5,743 |
| 01/10/2022 - 31/12/2022 | 6,581 |
| 01/10/2023 - 31/12/2023 | 9,543 |

## Table 2: Detected shoplifting offences across Scotland

## Time period: Oct, Nov & Dec each year, 2019 to 2023:

| **Time period** | **Detected shoplifting offences** |
| --- | --- |
| 01/10/2019 - 31/12/2019 | 5,127 |
| 01/10/2020 - 31/12/2020 | 3,643 |
| 01/10/2021 - 31/12/2021 | 3,050 |
| 01/10/2022 - 31/12/2022 | 3,792 |
| 01/10/2023 - 31/12/2023 | 5,235 |

## Q4. All of the above but for specifically Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire area.

## Table 3: Recorded shoplifting offences in Aberdeen City & Aberdeenshire

## Time period: Oct, Nov & Dec each year, 2019 to 2023:

| **Time period** | **Recorded shoplifting offences** |
| --- | --- |
| **Aberdeen City** | **Aberdeenshire** |
| 01/10/2019 - 31/12/2019 | 498 | 189 |
| 01/10/2020 - 31/12/2020 | 315 | 207 |
| 01/10/2021 - 31/12/2021 | 479 | 178 |
| 01/10/2022 - 31/12/2022 | 386 | 118 |
| 01/10/2023 - 31/12/2023 | 480 | 141 |

## Table 4: Detected shoplifting offences in Aberdeen City & Aberdeenshire

## Time period: Oct, Nov & Dec each year, 2019 to 2023:

| **Time period** | **Detected shoplifting offences** |
| --- | --- |
| **Aberdeen City** | **Aberdeenshire** |
| 01/10/2019 - 31/12/2019 | 363 | 155 |
| 01/10/2020 - 31/12/2020 | 198 | 164 |
| 01/10/2021 - 31/12/2021 | 236 | 133 |
| 01/10/2022 - 31/12/2022 | 194 | 79 |
| 01/10/2023 - 31/12/2023 | 264 | 87 |

## Q2. How many of these crimes were reported to be violent?

## Q3. If possible, which shops reported the most shoplifting?

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to provide the information requested at Q2 & Q3. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

By way of explanation, we cannot search crime records based on the name of the shop / locus nor automatically determine whether any form of violence was used.

The only way to establish this level of detail would be to individually examine all shoplifting offences for the time periods requested. As such, this is an exercise which 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.