| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-0608  Responded to: 01 March 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I've been speaking to the Scottish Retail Consortium about the crime stats and the 37% hike in shoplifting. They say the figures won't represent the full picture as many business won't report to police because "they don't believe any action will be taken."

## Ewan MacDonald-Russell, Deputy Head of the Scottish Retail Consortium, said: “These figures confirm the findings in our most recent crime survey that shoplifting has risen significantly in the last year.  Even this shocking rise won’t capture the full picture as tens of thousands of thefts aren't even reported by retailers as they don't believe any action will be taken

## "Unfortunately as the number of thefts have risen, driven by a combination of the cost-of-living crisis and organised gangs, retailers faith that thieves will be caught has diminished. Instead, the focus is on protecting our colleagues from abuse and assault and investing record amounts in theft protection.

## "Shoplifting isn't a victimless crime.  Shop workers are intimidated, and the financial costs are enormous - in some cases putting shops at risk. It's time the Police made tackling store crime a priority and made our high streets safe. “

## Would you comment?

The information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies. The Information you are requesting is an opinion and is not recorded 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](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.