| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-2506Responded to: 20th October 2023 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 1. Please provide a breakdown of number plate violations by type in your area by year?

Please be advised that statistics regarding recorded and detected 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 links:

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

[Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/) – Multi-Member Ward area breakdown

## 2. How many people were caught for missing front number plates by year?

## 3. How many number plate violations were caught by cameras in 2022?

## 4. How many number plate violations were caught by officers in 2022?

## 5. How many reports of number plate cloning have there been this year?

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.

Case by case assessment of all crime reports would have to be carried out to allow for the requested details to be noted.

As illustrated by the above published statistics, in the 2022/23 period alone there were 687 crimes which would have to be individually assessed. As such, this is an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

## 6. How many reports of number plate theft have there been this year?

The crime recording systems used by Police Scotland have no facility which allows for us to search crime reports by nature of stolen property.

As such, case by case assessment of all Theft offences would have to be carried out to establish whether the property stolen was a number plate.

As illustrated by our published statistics, there are thousands of Theft offences recorded for the time period requested, each of which would require to be individually examined.

As such, this is an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the £600 cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations, and so 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.

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.