| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-2379Responded to: 28th September 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I wondered if you would be able to supply me with the number of car thefts recorded by month, since 2013? (If the past ten years would take too long, the past five would work!)

Having considered your request in terms of the above 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 in accordance with the Scottish

Government Justice Department offence classification codes and are not thereafter sub-categorised.

In this instance, the relevant crime classification is ‘Theft of a motor vehicle’ however this classification covers all motor vehicles and is not thereafter sub-categorised by vehicle type.

The only way to establish whether the stolen vehicle was a car would be to carry out case by case assessment of all Theft of a Motor Vehicle offences.

This would involve individually examining thousands of crime reports for the time period requested - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees

Regulations.

To be of some assistance, recorded and detected Theft of a Motor Vehicle crime statistics are publicly available on the Police Scotland website:-

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

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.