| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-0031  Responded to: 06 February 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Please provide data on the number of crime reports received by your force which refer to the theft of a heat pump from a residential property in both (a) 2023 and (b) 2024.

## For clarity, the term ‘heat pump’ refers to the new generation of domestic central heating systems which feature a piece of heat exchange equipment installed in the external area of a property.

## In order to secure the release of information within the cost limits set out in the Act, please note that it will be acceptable to conduct a limited keyword search (or equivalent) for the phrase ‘heat pump’ within reports of thefts and burglaries for the requested periods.

I must stress that Police Scotland do not consider keyword searches for specific words/ phrases to be an accurate means of analysis.

There may have been crimes of relevance to your request which do not include the specific word/ phrase that you have listed.

Similarly, spelling errors can skew the results of any analysis based on the presence of keywords.

It would however be nigh on impossible to come up with a list of comprehensive search terms - hence why we would not recommend the approach.

Although a phrase appears in the MO field of a crime report, it cannot be assumed on that basis that the crime was directly related to the subject matter as per the context of your request.

For the reasons above, we would therefore take the view that the data below does not accurately reflect crimes relevant to theft of heat pumps.

However, I can confirm for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2024, 3 crime reports included ‘heat pump’ in the Modus Operandi (MO) field of the crime report.

On further review, only 1 involved the theft of a heat pump from a residential property.

| **Date** | **Description** | **MO text** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| December 2024 | Theft by housebreaking - non dwelling | Unknown suspect(s) did approach property at the locus, did force entry to garage via rear door, did steal air source heat pump to the value of £500 from within, and did thereafter make off in unknown direction. |

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information.   
Data was extracted from Police Scotland systems and are correct as at 29/01/2024.  
Recorded Crimes are extracted using the Date Raised.  
MO CODING where a keyword search identified the word 'Heat Pump'.

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](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) 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.