| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-0296Responded to: 27 January 2025 |
| --- | --- |

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

1. **In terms of Police Scotland’s new initiative to tackle rural vehicle theft with specially designed stickers can you confirm how many stickers have been distributed since the announcement of the Scheme last month?**

Of the initial 1500 print run, approximately 700 of these have been dispersed to local policing divisions to share with rural owners of machinery as required. 300 have also been shared with partners including National Farmers Union Scotland and NFU Mutual to share with their respective members.

500 have been held back to take to upcoming 2025 rural events and engagements throughout the year ahead with rural communities by the National Rural Preventions team. There has been no additional print run at this time.

1. **How many rural machinery displaying one of the Scheme’s stickers has been stopped by Police Scotland officers?**
2. **How many, if any, machinery that has been stopped has been found to be being illegally possessed or used?**

The information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

By way of explanation, this information is not tracked. It is important to note the main purpose of the SPARC machinery stickers is to raise the profile of rural machinery theft with both the public, partners and Police, the core times that these vehicles are stolen and that they would not routinely be on the road network at those times. If a suspect vehicle is seen regardless of having a sticker displayed or not then it may be stopped by Police if believed to be involved in criminality.

Vehicles are routinely stopped by Police across Scotland daily including vehicles in rural locations for a variety of reasons a number of these will prove to be stolen vehicles and be recovered.

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.