| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-1401  Responded to: 28th May 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request detailed information regarding shoplifting incidents within the Ayr and Helensburgh area from January 1, 2021, to January 1, 2024. Specifically, I would like to know: 1. The total number of shoplifting incidents reported for each of the years specified. 2. A breakdown of these incidents by specific areas within Ayr and Helensburgh, if available.

Regarding question 1 and 2 I must inform you that the information sought is held by Police Scotland, but I am refusing to provide it in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the section 25(1) exemption applies:

“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it is exempt information”.

The information sought is publicly available at [Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/). The relevant areas are Ayr North, Ayr East, Ayr West, Helensburgh Central and Helensburgh and Lomond South

## 3. Details of the outcomes of these incidents, including any charges, arrests, or prosecutions, ensuring that personal details remain anonymised.

Home Office outcome categories do not extend to Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies. The information sought is not held by Police Scotland.

Crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the [Scottish Crime Recording Standard](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/p0nfjj2c/scottish-crime-recording-standard-crime-recording-and-counting-rules-april-2021.pdf?view=Standard) and crimes are reported as recorded or detected.

Detected crimes are those where an accused has been identified and there exists a sufficiency of evidence under Scots Law to justify consideration of criminal proceedings.

Corresponding data can be accessed online - [Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/). In addition Police Scotland does not hold criminal conviction data. You may wish to contact the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) and/ or the Scottish Courts Service.

## 4. In what kind of places did these incidents occur? Were they in giant supermarkets, for example? A breakdown of this will be helpful, if possible. 5. Were people injured during these shoplifting incidents? 6. If it is possible to provide these details, what are the most common items shoplifted? And if it is mainly money, how much do they get away with?

For all data requested within question 4, 5 and 6, I unfortunately estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

By way of explanation each individual case would have to manually assessed to determine relevance. This is an exercise that I estimate to far exceed the cost threshold set out within the Act.

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.