| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-0101  Responded to: 08 February 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I am writing to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act for information regarding the number of items stolen, or reports of items stolen, from police vehicles and stations in Renfrewshire.

## Specifically, I would like the following information from January 1, 2020 - January 1, 2024, please,

## The number of items reported to be stolen from a police station?

2021 – one item stolen from a Police Station

2023 – two incidents when an item was stolen from a Police Station

## The number of items reported to be stolen from a police vehicle?

Having considered this question in terms of the 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, any theft from a police vehicle would be recorded with the locus of incident being the street the offence took place on. We would therefore have to search through all incidents of thefts from vehicles to identify if this was a Police vehicle. This is an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

## What items have been reportedly stolen from police stations and vehicles?

## What were the costs of the items that needed to be replaced?

With regards to providing details of items stolen from Police Offices and the cost of replacement , in accordance with section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 I am refusing to disclose the above requested information.

Section 16 of the Act requires Police Scotland, when refusing to provide such information because the information 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.

The information requested is held and the exemptions applicable are as follows:

**Section 34(1) (a) (i) & (b) – Investigations by a Scottish public authority and proceedings arising out of such investigations**

Information is exempt information if it has at any time been held by Police Scotland for the purposes of an investigation which may lead to a decision to make a report to the Procurator Fiscal to enable it to be determined whether criminal proceedings should be instituted.

This is a non-absolute exemption and requires the application of the public interest test.

**Public Interest Test**

I appreciate there is a degree of interest in the release of such information: however this must be tempered against what is of interest to the public and what is in the public interest.

It is in the public interest that an understanding exists as to the processes involved in police investigations and in their relative success. This is particularly true in investigations, therefore, accountability and transparency relating to the actions of Police Scotland and its officers would favour disclosure of the information.

That said, a decision for non-disclosure follows consideration of ongoing or likely criminal investigations and the efficient and effective conduct of Police Scotland in relation to such investigations.

Additionally, when the Freedom of Information Bill was considered by the Scottish Parliament, the then Lord Advocate stated that the exemptions detailed in section 34(1) were essential for an effective justice system.

Accordingly, to provide details of these thefts is outweighed by the harm that could be created by revealing information.

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.