| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-1979Responded to: xx August 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 1. Please provide information on the total number of thefts of motor vehicles recorded between 1st January 2019 and 31st December 2019 (inclusive) and 1st January 2022 and 31st December 2022 (inclusive) in your force area.

## 2. Please also provide a breakdown of the number of thefts of motor vehicles split by the city/town they were stolen from within both time periods.

Please note the questions have been reordered for ease of response.

Please be advised that statistics for recorded and detected offences are publicly available on the Police Scotland website.

Accordingly, the information sought in Q1 and Q2 can be found by searching by offence type and Multi member ward (MMW) at the following link:

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

As such, in terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought. Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it 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.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information that you have requested and the exemption that I consider to be applicable is set out at Section 25(1) of the Act - information otherwise accessible:

*“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under Section 1(1) is exempt information”*

## 3. Please also provide a breakdown of the number of thefts of motor vehicles split by make and model within both time periods.

I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested in Q3, 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, the crime recording systems used by Police Scotland have no facility whereby the make / model of the vehicles broken into can be easily extracted.

Case by case assessment of all relevant crimes would have to be carried out to establish these details which, as evidenced by the statistics above, 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.

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.