



FOI ref no: 14611

11<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Freedom of Information request: reference 14611, first notified to us by email on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

Thank you for your recent request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as detailed below:

*The total number of recorded catalytic converter thefts in your jurisdiction for the 2020, 2021 and 2022 calendar years?*

Staffordshire Police's response to your enquiry is as follows:

In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for this particular request.

On behalf of Staffordshire Police I wish to advise you that whilst I can confirm that Staffordshire Police does hold the information requested, the force claims the provision under Section 12(1) of the Act (where the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit). 'Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the prescribed limit'.

This is because Staffordshire Police are now using a new system to record crime. Data from the old recording system has been brought over to the new system and although the system has structured property fields only property with identifying marks, i.e. serial numbers, registration plates etc., will be recorded under these fields. Therefore, property will only be recorded in a structured format if it meets the above criteria. Relative to any other property i.e. catalytic converters, it would entail searching each individual record to establish if it fitted the criteria of the request.

For the requested date period there are over 5,300 'Theft from a motor vehicle' reported crimes. It has been estimated that it would take approximately three minutes to look into each record which would equate to approximately 265 hours to service this request. This would exceed the time and cost threshold of the FOI Act.

Unfortunately I cannot suggest a way in which to refine your request to bring it within the confines of the time and cost threshold.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of this email and should be addressed to:

[foi@staffordshire.police.uk](mailto:foi@staffordshire.police.uk)



STAFFORDSHIRE  
**POLICE**

Or by Post to:

Central Disclosure Unit  
Staffordshire Police HQ  
PO Box 3167  
Stafford  
ST16 9JZ

Please remember to quote the reference number in any future communications.

Freedom of Information  
Central Disclosure Unit

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