

FOI ref no: 14544

28th July 2022

Freedom of Information request: reference 14544 first notified to us by email on 6th July 2022. Thank you for your recent request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as detailed below:

I would like to request the following data, broken out by calendar year (and local authority location if possible), for the past 10 years starting with 2022 if available:

1. *What are the most commonly stolen car parts from the vehicles in the UK (by local authority area).*
2. *The total number of reports of stolen car parts from the vehicles in the UK (by local authority area)*
3. *What are the most commonly stolen items from within the vehicles in the UK (by local authority area).*
4. *The total number of vehicle break ins reported in the UK (by local authority area)*
5. *The total number of vehicles stolen according to police definition (by local authority area).*
6. *The number of convictions from vehicles stolen according to police definition (by local authority area).*

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

Staffordshire Police does hold the requested information but in accordance with Section 17 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for this particular request.

I am applying the exemption under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act (where the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit). 'Section 12(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'.

The issue is with regard to questions 1, 2 and 3 as there is no readily retrievable way of obtaining the requested information. This kind of crime would most commonly be recorded as 'Theft from a Motor Vehicle' but because of the way the information is held, the only way to establish what item or items had been stolen in a particular incident (whether a car part or something else – e.g. a mobile telephone or sat- nav etc.) would be to carry out a vary labour intensive manual trawl through thousands of such crimes. The time required to carry out this research would exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold stipulated by the FOI Act by some considerable margin.

Please note that if you were to refine your request by withdrawing questions 1 to 3, I would be able to provide figures for the total number of 'Theft from Motor Vehicle' offences recorded (there is no such offence as 'vehicle break-ins') and the total number of vehicles reported stolen for the full ten year period.

Please note that we do not hold conviction data so we would not be able to answer question 6.



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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

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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