



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

FOI ref no: 14557

27th July 2022

Freedom of Information request: reference 14557, first notified to us by email on 12th July 2022.

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

How many of the following types of petrol thefts were reported to your force in each of the following months - June 2020 through to June 2022.

- 1. petrol theft from another person's vehicle (theft of fuel from a vehicle)*
- 2. fuel theft from a petrol station (driver making off without payment at petrol pumps)*

Please break down figures for 1. and 2. above by calendar month for the periods June 1 2020 to June 30 2022.

For example -

- 1.*
June 2020 - 4
July 2020 - 5
August 2020 - 6
etc

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'.

The issue is that there is no readily retrievable way of searching our crime/occurrence recording system for particular types of stolen property (in this case 'fuel'). Therefore, the only way to establish whether or not a particular theft offence fitted the criteria of your request would be to carry out a very labour intensive manual trawl through thousands of crime reports. Even if the crime type was limited to 'theft from motor vehicle' offences only, the research required would still exceed the 18 hour time and cost threshold of the FOI Act.

Please note that I would be able to provide figures for all 'Making off without Payment' offences where the location of each incident is listed as a petrol station. This is how the vast majority of incidents are recorded where an individual fills up their vehicle with fuel but then drives away without making any attempt to pay for it but this method would obviously not capture any theft type offences where fuel has been siphoned off from unattended motor vehicles or fuel stolen from farms/outbuildings.

If such 'Making off without Payment' offences are of interest to you, this can be provided in a refined response.

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