

28 August 2024

FOI Ref 17078

Request - You asked us the following:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am writing to request the following information:

1. The count of Property Items that were Stolen or Stolen & Recovered in any offence notifiable to the Home Office, for each of the following three Property Types:

- a. HB - Ornaments/objects d'art
- b. PF - Art/Draw Materials
- c. HH -Paintings/drawing/tapestry/embroidered wallhangings etc

Please provide this information for 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 to date (end of June), broken down by year.

2. Details of the top 10 most expensive items stolen each year across these categories (ie to limit the time, 10 in total not 10 in each category), including:

- a. Estimated cost/value of the item
- b. Brief description of the stolen item

3. If available, any details where a ransom was paid by the owner for the recovery of the item.

I would appreciate it if you could provide the information in a digital format, preferably as a spreadsheet or CSV file.

We received your request on 24/07/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Please find below our response.

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

Staffordshire Police discloses/withholds the following information.

- 1. The count of Property Items that were Stolen or Stolen & Recovered in any offence notifiable to the Home Office, for each of the following three Property Types:
 - a. HB - Ornaments/objects d'art
 - b. PF - Art/Draw Materials
 - c. HH -Paintings/drawing/tapestry/embroidered wallhangings etc

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- 2. Details of the top 10 most expensive items stolen each year across these categories (ie to limit the time, 10 in total not 10 in each category), including:
 - a. Estimated cost/value of the item
 - b. Brief description of the stolen item
- 3. If available, any details where a ransom was paid by the owner for the recovery of the item.

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

There is no method by which we can readily retrieve the requested information from our systems to answer this request. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 49,200 occurrences. In order to ascertain whether the items stolen included 'a. HB - Ornaments/objects d'art, b. PF - Art/Draw Materials and c. HH -Paintings/drawing/tapestry/embroidered wallhangings', a very labour-intensive manual trawl through each record in turn would be required. From dip sampling it has been estimated that it would take approximately 3 minutes to review each record which equates to over 2,460 hours. This would exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the FOI Act by some considerable margin.

The following exemptions have been applied:

- Section 12(1) 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'.

Advice and assistance

Section 16 of the Act places an obligation upon the Authority to provide advice and assistance, in order to comply with this obligation please see below.

Unfortunately, we cannot suggest a way in which your request could be simplified or pared down in order to bring it within the confines of the time and cost threshold.

Next steps

You can ask us to review our response.

If you would like us to carry out a review of our response, please let us know within two months of the date of receipt of this email, review requests should be addressed to:

foi@staffordshire.police.uk

Or by Post to:

Central Disclosure Unit
Staffordshire Police HQ
PO Box 3167



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

Stafford
ST16 9JZ

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

Freedom of Information
Central Disclosure Unit