

28 August 2024

FOI Ref 17102

Request - You asked us the following:

Please could you send me the following data available in your area on the following points, with figures be broken down by month and to cover the period January 2023 to December 2023.

- Please could you provide statistics for the number of vans reported broken in to and/or stolen (or had items stolen)
- Please could you then provide the makes/models of vans most frequently targeted by thieves

We received your request on 29/07/2024 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 withholds the following information.

- Please could you provide statistics for the number of vans reported broken in to and/or stolen (or had items stolen) – **Withheld.**
- Please could you then provide the makes/models of vans most frequently targeted by thieves – **Withheld.**

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

There is no method by which we can readily retrieve information from our systems to answer this request. Within our crime/occurrence recording systems, there is no mandatory field for recording the type of the involved vehicle. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 3,500 vehicles whereby the vehicle type has not been recorded for the offences of 'Theft of a Motor Vehicle', or 'Theft From a Motor Vehicle'. In order to determine whether the involved vehicle was a van or not, the record for each offence would require manual review, with further searches required in order to determine the make and model of the vehicle.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 3 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 175 hours. To achieve this task would

therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the Freedom of Information 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
Stafford
ST16 9JZ

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

Freedom of Information
Central Disclosure Unit