

28 August 2024

FOI Ref 17109

Request - You asked us the following:

Between January 2020 and January 2024, the number of reports of tools being stolen from vehicles
Between January 2020 and January 2024, the number of reports of tools being stolen from residential properties
Between January 2020 and January 2024, the number of reports of tools being stolen from construction sites

Please can I request this data to be broken down by year. I.e number of reports in 2020, 2021, 2022, etc.

We received your request on 30/07/2024 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.

- Between January 2020 and January 2024, the number of reports of tools being stolen from vehicles – **Withheld.**
- Between January 2020 and January 2024, the number of reports of tools being stolen from residential properties – **Withheld.**
- Between January 2020 and January 2024, the number of reports of tools being stolen from construction sites – **Withheld.**
- Please can I request this data to be broken down by year. I.e number of reports in 2020, 2021, 2022, etc. – **Withheld.**

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

There is no method by which we can easily retrieve information from our systems to answer this request. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 19,400 relevant occurrences, in order to ascertain whether the items stolen included any type of 'tool' the record for each offence

would require a manual review. To extract this data would therefore require a very labour-intensive manual trawl through each record.

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 970 hours. To achieve this task would therefore 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
Stafford
ST16 9JZ

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

Freedom of Information
Central Disclosure Unit