



19 September 2024

FOI Ref 17118

Request - You asked us the following:

Q1 How many instances of parcel theft (i.e. parcels stolen from somebody's doorstep, or other cases where thieves steal a package, for example by impersonating a delivery person or homeowner) were reported between the following dates? (NOTE: If the request will be too time-consuming, please share the most recent cases first)

- 01/08/2023 – 31/07/2024

Q2 If possible, can you share the number of reported instances of parcel theft (i.e. parcels stolen from somebody's doorstep, or other cases where thieves steal a package, for example by impersonating a delivery person or homeowner) by month for each of the date ranges provided in question one or, if this is not possible, any data that would make it possible to calculate this?

Q3 If possible, can you share either the total reported value of stolen parcels for the date ranges provided in question one or, if this is not possible, any data that would make it possible to calculate this?

Q4 If possible, can you share the most common time of day when parcels were stolen (using the date ranges provided in question one) in the following format, or, if not possible, any data that would make it possible to calculate this?

- A - 09.01 – 17.00
- B - 17.01 – 22.00
- C - 22.01 – 09.00

Q5 If possible, can you share the most common age of the people reporting theft (for the date ranges provided in question one) in the following format, or any data that would make it possible to calculate this?

- A - 21 and under
- B - 22-34
- C - 35-44
- D - 45-54
- E - 55-64
- F - 65 and over

Q6 If possible, can you estimate how long (hours per month) in total that your employees spent on any work relating to reported theft of parcels?

Q7 If possible, can you share the number of reports you received split by type of dwelling/address where the reported incident took place?

- Detached house or bungalow
- Semi-detached or terraced house
- Apartment/flat
- Office/business



-Any other

If answering the above questions is not possible, could you please advise as to what relevant information would be attainable, or where the information might already exist in the public domain.

If this request is too wide or unclear, I would be grateful if you could contact me with advice as to what relevant information is attainable and what steps I need to take to receive it.

I would be grateful if you could confirm in writing that you have received this request.

We received your request on 01/08/2024 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.

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 - 01/08/2023 – 31/07/2024 – **Withheld.**
- Q2 If possible, can you share the number of reported instances of parcel theft (i.e. parcels stolen from somebody's doorstep, or other cases where thieves steal a package, for example by impersonating a delivery person or homeowner) by month for each of the date ranges provided in question one or, if this is not possible, any data that would make it possible to calculate this? – **Withheld.**
- Q3 If possible, can you share either the total reported value of stolen parcels for the date ranges provided in question one or, if this is not possible, any data that would make it possible to calculate this? – **Withheld.**
- Q4 If possible, can you share the most common time of day when parcels were stolen (using the date ranges provided in question one) in the following format, or, if not possible, any data that would make it possible to calculate this?
 - A - 09.01 – 17.00
 - B - 17.01 – 22.00
 - C - 22.01 – 09.00 – **Withheld.**
- Q5 If possible, can you share the most common age of the people reporting theft (for the date ranges provided in question one) in the following format, or any data that would make it possible to calculate this?
 - A - 21 and under



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- B - 22-34
 - C - 35-44
 - D - 45-54
 - E - 55-64
 - F - 65 and over – **Withheld.**
- Q6 If possible, can you estimate how long (hours per month) in total that your employees spent on any work relating to reported theft of parcels? – **Withheld.**
 - Q7 If possible, can you share the number of reports you received split by type of dwelling/address where the reported incident took place?
 - Detached house or bungalow
 - Semi-detached or terraced house
 - Apartment/flat
 - Office/business
 - Any other – **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. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 6,000 reports of theft. In order to ascertain whether the theft involved a parcel or parcels, the record of each report would require manual review. In addition, further time would be required in order to determine the method of theft, the value of any such parcels stolen, the time of day parcels were stolen, the age of those reporting such thefts, type of dwelling the parcels were stolen from, and the time spent investigating reports of stolen parcels.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 5 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 500 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.



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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