

21 October 2024

FOI Ref 17300

Request - You asked us the following:

I am writing to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

Please could you provide me with the following information, in Excel spreadsheet form if possible:

- 1) How many incidents of theft from the person were recorded by your police force in the following financial years: 2023/24, 2022/23 and 2021/22.
- 2) How many incidents of theft from the person were closed without an investigation due to the CCTV trawling timeframe being too long by your police force in the following financial years: 2023/24, 2022/23 and 2021/22.
- 3) How many incidents of theft from the person were closed without an investigation overall by your police force in the following financial years: 2023/24, 2022/23 and 2021/22.

We received your request on 27/09/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

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.

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'.

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 22,000 incidents of theft reported. Due to our recording protocols for reported incidents, the record for each report would require manual review in order to determine whether the offence was listed as 'Theft From a Person'. 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 5 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 1,833 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.



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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.

If the request was amended, Staffordshire Police would be able to provide the outcomes for all crimes/occurrences whereby the offence was classified as 'Theft From The Person' between 01/04/2021 and 31/03/2024, broken down by financial year.

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