

30 October 2024

FOI Ref 17330

Request - You asked us the following:

This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please can you provide me with the number of shoplifting incidents at Boots (the chemist) reported to your Force in:

-2024 (year to August)

-2023

-2022

- If possible, please break down incidents by calendar month.

- If possible, please provide details of goods stolen e.g hair products.

We received your request on 07/10/2024 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:

The issue is with the request for a breakdown of goods stolen because there is no method by which we can readily retrieve this information from our systems. For the time period requested, over 3,000 offences have been recorded but in order to ascertain the details of goods stolen 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 150 hours research and would therefore, exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the FOI Act by some considerable margin.

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.

Please note that if you refine your request by removing the requirement for a breakdown of goods stolen, we would be able to provide data for the all shoplifting offences where the location has been recorded as 'Boots Chemist', broken down by month and year. However, please note that further exemptions may apply.



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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