

31 October 2024

FOI Ref 17359

Request - You asked us the following:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from Staffordshire Police. Please may you provide me with:

- The number of times your police force has been called about a vehicle or machinery theft at a construction site within the last five years (calendar years are fine).
 - Further, the number of times you were called about a vehicle or machinery theft at a construction site and were able to recover the asset in the last five years (calendar years are fine).
- If possible, please specify what vehicle or machinery was stolen, within the last five years (calendar years are fine).

That information would be appreciated if you could break the data down by region/ city.

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under the Section 16 obligations of the Act, as to how I can refine my request.

If you can identify any ways that my request could be refined I would be grateful for any further advice and assistance.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me via email or phone and I will be very happy to clarify what I am asking for and discuss the request, my details are outlined below.

We received your request on 14/10/2024 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:

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 23,000 occurrences of theft from a vehicle, theft of a vehicle, burglary of a business and theft from a business. There is no mandatory field within our



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crime/occurrence recording system to record whether any of these thefts occurred at a construction site. In order to determine this, the record for each offence would require manual review. 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 1,150 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.

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