

7 November 2024

FOI Ref 17426

Request - You asked us the following:

1) Number of Garden Theft Incidents

Please provide the total number of reported garden theft incidents (including thefts from garden sheds, patios, or any garden areas) within your jurisdiction for each of the following years: 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023.

2) Details of Items Stolen

If recorded, please provide information on the types of items reported stolen during garden theft incidents. For example, the count of stolen tools, bicycles, furniture, plants, ornaments, etc.

3) Time of Year (Seasonality) of Incidents If the data is accessible, please provide details of the months or seasons in which garden theft incidents were most frequently reported.

4) Value of Items Stolen (if available)

If there is any record of the estimated value of the stolen items, please provide this information in aggregated form for each year.

We received your request on 31/10/2024 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 easily retrieve information from our systems to answer this request. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 14,000 related incidents, in order to ascertain whether the items stolen were from a garden and also to establish what item was stolen and the value of the item for each incident would require a manual review. To extract this data would therefore require a very labour-intensive manual trawl through each record.



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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 700 hours. To achieve this task 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.

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