



2 September 2024

FOI Ref 17096

Request - You asked us the following:

The number of thefts of mobile phones for the following periods:

July 26 2019 – July 26 2020
July 26 2020 – July 26 2021
July 26 2021 – July 26 2022
July 26 2022 – July 26 2023
July 26 2023 – July 26 2024

The number of robberies of a mobile phone for the following periods:

July 26 2019 – July 26 2020
July 26 2020 – July 26 2021
July 26 2021 – July 26 2022
July 26 2022 – July 26 2023
July 26 2023 – July 26 2024

We received your request on 29/07/2024 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.

- The number of thefts of mobile phones for the following periods:
July 26 2019 – July 26 2020
July 26 2020 – July 26 2021
July 26 2021 – July 26 2022
July 26 2022 – July 26 2023
July 26 2023 – July 26 2024 – **Withheld.**
- The number of robberies of a mobile phone for the following periods:
July 26 2019 – July 26 2020
July 26 2020 – July 26 2021
July 26 2021 – July 26 2022



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July 26 2022 – July 26 2023
July 26 2023 – July 26 2024 – **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 49,000 occurrences of burglary, theft or robbery that may or may not have involved a mobile phone. In order to determine whether the items stolen included a mobile phone, the record for each offence would require manual review. 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 3 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 2,450 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.

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



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Please remember to quote the reference number in any future communications.

Freedom of Information
Central Disclosure Unit