

11 September 2024

FOI Ref 17115

**Request - You asked us the following:**

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

1. The total number of reported thefts from jewellery stores for each of the following years:
  - a) 2022
  - b) 2023
  - c) 2024 (from January 1st to end of July)
2. For each of the incidents above, please provide:
  - a) A list of the types of items stolen (e.g., watches, rings, necklaces, etc.)
  - b) The estimated total value of stolen items

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 to be included in the scope of the Act.

If you can identify any ways that my request could be refined or modified to reduce the time taken to process it, please provide advice and assistance on how to do so.

**We received your request on 01/08/2024 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.**

- I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please provide me with the following information:
  1. The total number of reported thefts from jewellery stores for each of the following years:
    - a) 2022 – **Withheld.**
    - b) 2023 – **Withheld.**
    - c) 2024 (from January 1st to end of July) – **Withheld.**



- 2. For each of the incidents above, please provide:
  - a) A list of the types of items stolen (e.g., watches, rings, necklaces, etc.) – **Withheld.**
  - b) The estimated total value of stolen items – **Withheld.**
- 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 to be included in the scope of the Act.
- If you can identify any ways that my request could be refined or modified to reduce the time taken to process it, please provide advice and assistance on how to do so.

**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 15,100 occurrences for the 'Theft from shops and stalls' offence, in order to ascertain whether the items stolen were from a jewellery store the record for each offence would require a manual review. Further research would then be required to establish what items were stolen and also the value of those items if this has been recorded. 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 4 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 1,006 hours. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the FOI 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](mailto:foi@staffordshire.police.uk)



STAFFORDSHIRE  
**POLICE**

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