

11 March 2025

FOI Ref 17922

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

Please can I get data on the number of luxury watches and handbags that have been stolen between 2019-2024?

By luxury, I mean watches and handbags worth £2,000 or more. I would like data in calendar years.

I have split my requests up in two sections. Please let me know if you need me to clarify anything, or need anything else from me.

**SECTION 1: Luxury watches**

1) Please could you provide information on how many thefts of luxury watches there have been for the following years:

2019  
2020  
2021  
2022  
2023  
2024

2) What were the top 10 most commonly stolen luxury watch brands? For each brand, could you list the total number of luxury watches stolen during 2024?

3) What were the top 10 most common locations where luxury watches were stolen? (For example, hotel/restaurant/street/pub/gym). For each location, could you list the total number of luxury watches stolen during 2024?

**SECTION 2: Luxury handbags**

1) Please could you provide information on how many thefts of luxury handbags there have been for the following years:

2019  
2020  
2021  
2022  
2023  
2024

2) What were the top 10 most commonly stolen luxury handbag brands? For each brand, could you list the total number of luxury handbags stolen during 2024?

3) What were the top 10 most common locations where luxury handbags were stolen? (For example, hotel/restaurant/street/pub/gym). For each location, could you list the total number of luxury handbags stolen during 2024?

We received your request on 05/03/2025 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 exemption has 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 84,100 theft occurrences, in order to ascertain whether the items stolen included any 'luxury watches and handbags' the record for each offence would require a 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 4,205 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.

Please be advised that all Freedom of Information request responses are published on the Staffordshire Police website although personal details are not included.

**Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure**

**1. Who Can Ask for a Review**

Any person who has requested information from Staffordshire Police, which has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act, is entitled to complain and request an internal review, if they are dissatisfied with the response they received.

**2. How to Request a Review**

Requests for review of a Freedom of Information request must be made in writing within two months of the date of receipt of this email, and should be addressed to:

[foi@staffordshire.police.uk](mailto:foi@staffordshire.police.uk)

Or by Post to:

Central Disclosure Unit  
Staffordshire Police HQ  
PO Box 3167  
Stafford  
ST16 9JZ

The reference number, date of the request and details of why the review is being requested must be included. Requests for review should be brought to the attention of the Central Disclosure Unit within two months of the Force's response to the original FOI request.

### **3. Review Procedure**

Receipt of a request for review will be acknowledged in writing. The review will be conducted by another Decision Maker who is independent from the original Decision Maker. The Central Disclosure Unit will set a target date for a response. The response will be made as soon as is practicable with the intention to complete the review within 20 working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to 40 working days.

The independent Decision Maker will conduct a review of the handling of the request for information and of decisions taken, including decisions taken about where the public interest lies in respect of exempt information where applicable. The review enables a re-evaluation of the case, taking into account the matters raised by the complaint.

### **4. Conclusion of the Appeal**

On completion of the review the Independent Decision maker will reply to the complainant with the result of the review. If the complainant is still dissatisfied following the review they should contact the Information Commissioner to make an appeal. The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following details:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

ICO Website for complaints link: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Freedom of Information  
Central Disclosure Unit