

FOI 2022-553

I write in connection with your request for information dated 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022 concerning Stolen vehicles & vehicles parts.

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to handle all requests in a manner that is blind as to the identity and motives of the requestor. Any information released as a response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore in the public domain without caveat.

**You wrote:**

I would like to request the following data, broken out by calendar year (and local authority location if possible), for the past 10 years starting with 2022 if available:

1. What are the most commonly stolen car parts from the vehicles in the UK (by local authority area).
2. The total number of reports of stolen car parts from the vehicles in the UK (by local authority area)
3. What are the most commonly stolen items from within the vehicles in the UK (by local authority area).
4. The total number of vehicle break ins reported in the UK (by local authority area)
5. The total number of vehicles stolen according to police definition (by local authority area).
6. The number of convictions from vehicles stolen according to police definition (by local authority area).

**Response:**

The following response has been provided on behalf of Wiltshire Police and the Office of the PCC. The information that you are requesting (namely for questions 1,2 & 3) is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.

For each of these questions related to the total number of reports of stolen car parts from the vehicles, what were the most commonly stolen car parts and the most commonly stolen items from within the vehicles, we currently do not have the capability within our systems to flag for this information which can then be analysed quickly and easily.

The ascertaining of this information would only be possible by physically reading every single crime report of theft from a vehicle during the 10-year period you are requesting to determine how many reports related to stolen car parts, and what were the most commonly stolen item.

Under the circumstances I am absolutely confident that to locate, retrieve and extract the information you seek would by far exceed the time obligations upon this authority to comply, and in so doing would exceed the fees limits. This is set at £450 calculated at a flat rate of £25 per hour for those work activities comprising of confirming the information is held, locating it, retrieving it and extracting it.

Although excess cost removes the forces' obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request. What I am able to provide you are the answers documented below:

**Question 4: The total number of vehicle break ins reported in the UK (by local authority area)**

<b>Theft from a vehicle</b>				
<b>Hub Name</b>	Crimes		Non crime incidents	
<b>Reported Year</b>	County	Swindon	County	Swindon
2011	1634	1038	40	21
2012	1638	1352	37	11
2013	1404	941	39	25
2014	1190	624	38	11
2015	998	631	29	12
2016	1161	861	18	11
2017	1359	1169	27	16
2018	1039	726	25	10
2019	1002	619	10	2
2020	751	511	10	8
2021	742	356	22	14
2022	410	176	13	3

**Question 5: The total number of vehicles stolen according to police definition (by local authority area)**

<b>Theft of a vehicle</b>				
<b>Hub Name</b>	Crimes		Non crime incidents	
<b>Reported Year</b>	County	Swindon	County	Swindon
2011	386	271	35	32
2012	330	293	40	32

2013	266	284	45	23
2014	222	269	45	28
2015	273	212	52	27
2016	285	307	47	27
2017	342	366	49	41
2018	300	308	40	37
2019	307	252	47	35
2020	291	192	41	23
2021	231	182	31	15
2022	164	85	19	7

**Question 6: The number of convictions from vehicles stolen according to police definition (by local authority area).**

**Includes Charged, Summoned, Caution.**

Hub Name	Crimes	
	County	Swindon
Reported Year		
2011	60	41
2012	47	45
2013	53	47
2014	36	36
2015	45	29
2016	46	45
2017	30	47
2018	35	31
2019	21	26
2020	38	20
2021	18	11
2022	3	4

Ordinarily under our section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you how to refine your request in respect of questions 1, 2 and 3 to a more manageable level. However, due to the difficulties outlined above, I cannot see how this can be achieved in this particular case.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Wiltshire Police, when refusing to provide information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice for those aspects of your request.

Exemptions applied:

Section 12: Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

Section 1(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 appropriate limit.

In accordance with section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this particular request.