

06/02/2015

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2015-0095



Sir Stephen House QPM  
Chief Constable

FOI Central Processing Unit  
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**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST**  
**SUBJECT: Theft of Heating Oil**

I refer to your email dated 12/01/2015 regarding the above which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

**QUESTION**

I would like to receive the figures for the theft of heating oil from domestic properties for the last year, 2014.

I am also interested in reported incidents of oil theft from farms, construction and industrial sites as well as business locations, again over the last year.

**RESPONSE**

Having considered your request in terms of the above Act, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

As such, and in terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

By way of illustration, the systems currently utilised for the purposes of crime and incident recording, do not provide a method whereby we are able to search for specific terms such as 'heating oil'. In order to ascertain the information you request, a manual trawl of each incident record relating to 'theft' would be required. For the calendar year of 2014, this would require the interrogation of in excess of 40,000 records. Therefore, the information is not easily retrievable and identifying even a small number of files would undoubtedly greatly exceed the cost limit set out in the regulation.

I trust that the information available is of assistance and should you require any further assistance concerning this matter please contact me on 01463720555 quoting the reference number given.

If you are not satisfied with the way in which your request has been dealt with, you are entitled in the first instance and within 40 working days of receiving this letter to request a review of the decision made by the Service. Should you wish to do so, contact details are; Police Scotland, FOI Central Processing Unit, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH. (Or email [foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk)).

Once informed of the review decision, if you are still not satisfied, then you are entitled to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. The contact details are: Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS, telephone 01334 464610. Should you wish to appeal against the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

Yours sincerely

Andrene Macleod  
Information Management  
Freedom of Information