

24<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20212694**

**REQUEST**

**How many fuel thefts were reported in each month of 2020 and 2021 from:**

- **a) another person's vehicle (theft of fuel from a vehicle)**
- **b) from a forecourt (where a driver refuels without paying)**

**Please give the data for each month of each year and each category (a & b) separately**

**RESPONSE**

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires South Yorkshire Police, when refusing to provide such 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.

The following exemption applies to the disclosure of the information:

**Section 12(2) – Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit**

I approached our Performance Review Unit for assistance with your request. An analyst within this unit has conducted a search of our Crime Management System – Connect which records complaints or allegations of those matters, which the Home Office specify should be recorded as 'crimes'.

She has provided the following response in relation to a):

*I have been unable to find a method where we can effectively find these. I have the following search*

*- SYP & Crime only filter, Incident Created Date between 01/01/2020 - 31/12/2021, Crime Classification Code is equal to:*

49	Other Theft
49A	Making off without payment
45	Theft from a Motor Vehicle

*There are a total of 744 crimes but these will require manual review as there are still some remaining offences where they make off without payment which will need to be savvied out.*

The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 provide that the cost limit for non-central government public authorities is £450. This must be calculated at the rate of £25 per hour, providing an effective time limit of 18 hours. . If you feel your endeavours can be achieved within the appropriate limit by refining your request, South Yorkshire Police would be more than happy to consider any further request.

Guidance from the Information Commissioner to public authorities is that where one part of a request is reasonably estimated to exceed the appropriate limit then the authority is not obliged to consider or comply with the remainder of the request up to the point at which the appropriate limit has been reached. Please note point 30 of the below link:-

[https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1199/costs\\_of\\_compliance\\_exceeds\\_appropriate\\_limit.pdf](https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1199/costs_of_compliance_exceeds_appropriate_limit.pdf)

**Although excess cost removes the force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, I have supplied information relating question b) as a gesture of goodwill. 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.**

Please find attached, data in relation to question b) and the following search criteria:

- b) *For this we have provided distinct crime count were MO Desc 3 'petrol station – filling station' has been used.  
Criteria Used - Criteria Used - SYP & Crime only filter, Incident Created Date between 01/01/2020 - 31/12/2021, Crime Classification Code is equal to '49; 49A', Property Class 3 is equal to 'Petrol; Diesel', Property Status is equal to 'Stolen', MO Desc 3 is equal to 'petrol station - filling station'*

*Please note, we have become aware of some data quality issues with this search which will be highlighted with FCB. The issue is with the crime classifications not being used properly when recording the crimes. (49, 49A, 45)*