



Freedom of Information Response

Our reference: FOI 25-2116

Responded to: 21 October 2025

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

I am trying to understand why, as you have extracted the 2024 data, you have not done so for 2023 - I am assuming, given 3500+ records, this is in a readily retrievable format. the link provided, your online crime data, I have visited, but I cannot seem to replicate your 2024 spreadsheet - age of vehicle understood but VRM characters assist me in this respect.

It is my understanding that these issues were resolved in our revised review response of 8 September 2025, in relation to FOI 25-1207.

About the data supplied (2024)

1. I do not understand why about 160 VRMs have a 'recovered' flag but no recovered year or month. I provide comment here - can you clarify this

As you will be aware, Freedom of Information legislation provides a right of access to recorded information only and not to comment or opinion.

To be of assistance, I can however advise you that the date recovered field is not mandatory, and that the variance is likely due to officers marking the vehicle as recovered but not entering a date.

2. 16 vehicles reported stolen in 2024 were recovered in 2023 - can you explain/clarify this.

As you will be aware, Freedom of Information legislation provides a right of access to recorded information only and not to comment or opinion.

To be of assistance, I can however advise you that the errors are likely due to mistakes when inputting the date into the system.

Lastly, can you let me know:

A. what software do you use for recording motor vehicle theft events

Police Scotland use UNIFI for recording all crime reports, including motor vehicle theft.

It is important to note that UNIFI was fully rolled out nationally as of December 2023, meaning that there is a difference between data Police Scotland can provide from January 2024 onward and any earlier period.

B. what are the readily retrievable fields and

In relation to motor vehicle crime, these would include various fields regarding location and the biographical details of parties involved, as well as the make/ model of the vehicle and whether it was recovered or not, as well as relevant dates.

The make/ model/ recovery details are not however mandatory fields.

C. Whether you can identify theft allegations that were no-crimed i.e. transpired, were not a crime in particular, considered false allegations.

It is possible to provide data on crime reports recorded but subsequently marked as 'no crime'. It should be noted however that these reports are not sub-categorised in relation to the reasons for the 'no-crime' decision.

If you require any further assistance, please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](#) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](#), by [email](#) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible.

If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.