

Our Ref: 003116/13



Freedom of Information Section
Nottinghamshire Police HQ
Sherwood Lodge, Arnold
Nottingham NG5 8PP

Tel: 101
Ext 800 2507
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3 May 2013

Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

I write in connection with your request for information, which was received by Nottinghamshire Police on 5 April 2013.

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Nottinghamshire Police to locate the information you require.

Please find below answers to your questions:-

RESPONSE

Under S 1 (1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), I can confirm that Nottinghamshire Police does hold the information you have requested.

I would like information about the total number of fuel thefts recorded by your force in each of the last three full financial years [inclusive of 2012/13] - including motor fuel [diesel or petrol], gas and oil.

I would be grateful if you could provide a breakdown of the information which notes, where applicable, the estimated value of the fuel stolen and the nature of the theft [depending on how you categorise this information - i.e. domestic, forecourt, commercial property etc].

I'm happy to receive the information in whichever way it is recorded by the force.

Preferably it would be Excel spreadsheet format, showing total number per year and then a breakdown of individual incidents which denotes the estimated monetary value and the nature of the theft.

If you record data on fuel thefts in a way that makes the above impossible but could still help me get some information together on it, then please provide this instead of simply refusing the request.

This information is not recorded in an easily retrievable format. An initial search of recorded crimes which involved the key words 'gas' or 'oil' revealed a total of 3,633 records over the period requested. To locate, retrieve and extract the requested information requires a manual search of all records held to ascertain whether the record involved a theft of gas or oil, where the theft occurred and the estimated value of the stolen fuel (where recorded).

A sample search took around 5/10 minutes for one record which would equate to approximately 302.75 working hours (or 12 days, 14 hours and 45 mins). This takes the request over the cost threshold of 18 working hours and engages Section 12 (1) of the Act.

This letter constitutes a refusal notice under Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 with Section 12(1) of the act being applied

12. – (1) 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.

Should you wish for the Force to continue with your request, a more accurate figure will be provided within a fee's notice. The cost will need to be paid by you, prior to any further investigation. Please advise if you wish to proceed.

In accordance with the Act, once one part of the request exceeds the cost threshold, we are not obliged to answer any part of your request.

In the spirit of the Act but outside of it, information concerning thefts of fuel from petrol station forecourts which is commonly referred to as 'Bilking' can be provided. Please see the below table:

Number of Drive Offs from Petrol Station in 2010-11, 2011-12 & 2012-13	
Financial Year	Total
2009-10	1363
2010-11	1170
2011-12	1180
2012-13	542
Total	4255

Please Note:- This data has been extracted from a live crime system and may be subject to change

Source:- Management Information 18.04.2013

Unfortunately, we will be unable to provide any information in respect of the value of fuel stolen as this is not recorded in a searchable field and would,

again, involve a manual search of each record and the value may not always be recorded.

Complaints Rights

Your attention is drawn to the enclosed review procedure, which details your right of complaint.

Copyright

Nottinghamshire Police in complying with their statutory duty under Sections 1 and 11 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) to release the enclosed information will not breach the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

However, the rights of the copyright owner of the enclosed information will continue to be protected by law. Applications for the copyright owner's written permission to reproduce any part of the attached information should be addressed to the Force Solicitor, Nottinghamshire Police, Force Headquarters, Sherwood Lodge, Arnold, Nottinghamshire, NG5 8PP.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Nottinghamshire Police.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please write or contact the Freedom of Information Officer on telephone number 0115 9672507 or e-mail freedomofinformation@Nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

Disclosure Officer

Are you dissatisfied with your response?

If so, prior to lodging a formal complaint, you are welcome and encouraged to discuss the decision with the case officer that dealt with your request.

Ask to have the decision looked at again

The quickest and easiest way to have the decision reconsidered is to telephone the case officer that is identified at the end of your decision letter.

That person will be able to discuss the decision, explain any issues and assist with any problems.

Formal Independent Review

If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or the decision made by Nottinghamshire Police under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, you can request an Independent Review.

Upon receipt for a review of the initial request response, an independent audit officer from Information Management will review the request and assess whether it has been satisfactorily processed in accordance with policy and procedure.

Requests for Independent Reviews requests should be made in writing to-

Force Information Manager
Nottinghamshire Police
Force Headquarters
Sherwood Lodge
Arnold
Nottingham
NG5 8PP

The Audit officer will record and communicate his/her decision to the information requester within 20 working days.

Appeals

If the findings of the formal independent review do not meet your approval, you can register an appeal against the decision.

An investigation will then take place by the Freedom of Information officer, which will be reported and presented to the Internal Appeal Board. This will include a full account of the reasoning for or against disclosure and the application of any relevant exemptions.

The Internal Appeal Board will consist of at least a member of the Chief Officer Team, a member of the Legal Team and the Force Information Manager.

Appeals should be registered in writing to:

Freedom of Information Officer
Nottinghamshire Police
Force Headquarters
Sherwood Lodge
Arnold
Nottingham
NG5 8PP

Alternatively E-mail: Freedomofinformation@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

Or call: 01159672507

Applications to the Information Commissioner

If you then remain dissatisfied, you may make an application to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make an application to the Information Commissioner, please visit their website at www.informationcommisioner.gov.uk

Alternatively, Write to:

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

Or call: 01625 545700.