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Our Ref: FOI2018/01013

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2018/01013

I write in connection with your request for information received on 23rd February. I note you seek access to the following information:

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information please:

- 1)
The number of vehicle-related thefts reported to your police force in each of the last 3 years (2015, 2016, 2017).
- 2)
 - i) **Of those vehicle related thefts the number classified as “theft of vehicle” i.e. where the vehicle is driven away illegally in each of the last 3 years (2015, 2016, 2017).**
 - ii) **The make and model of the car stolen in question 2 i) in each of the last 3 years (2015, 2016, 2017).**
 - iii) **Of those cars stolen in question 2 i) how many were cars with “Keyless” or “remote access” to the vehicle in each of the last 3 years (2015, 2016, 2017).**
 - iv) **Of those cars stolen in question 2 i) the method of entry used to access the vehicle in each of the last 3 years (2015, 2016, 2017).**
- 3)
Summary details on all vehicle related thefts - including any mention of “keyless” or “remote” access to the car in each of the last 3 years (2015, 2016, 2017).
- 4)
Outcome of all police investigations in to vehicle related thefts, i.e. suspect charged, no further action, etc in each of the last 3 years (2015, 2016, 2017).

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

Response - Following enquiries within the Constabulary please see our response below;

The information system does not have a data field which would enable us to easily capture the information relating to question 2iii and 3. A free text field search will need to be conducted and all reports manually analysed thereafter. Information relating to question 2iii has been provided as the free text search revealed less records. However, information relating to question 3 revealed 322 records which will require manual analysis to ascertain the context these words have been used and then determine the relevance of the record to your request.

Unfortunately this means it is not possible to suggest a way to refine this request, as even if the date range were reduced it would still require multiple records to be manually checked.

We therefore, consider that the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the appropriate limit of £450 as has been stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees & Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides that –
“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.”

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Hertfordshire Constabulary, when refusing to provide such information (because the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit) to provide you the applicant with a notice which states that fact. This letter acts as a Refusal Notice under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

However, I am able to provide the following FOI2018 01013 Annexe A document which is relative to the remainder of your request, retrieved before the fees limit was exceeded. I hope this is helpful however; it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

The numerical data presented in this response is an un-audited snapshot of un-published data sourced from "live" systems and is subject to the interpretation of the original request by the individual extracting the data.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter please do not hesitate to contact me quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

Sonia Chopra-Miah
Information Rights

Hertfordshire Constabulary provides you the right to request an independent review of this response under its review procedure. If you require such a review you must notify us within two months from the date of this letter. After lodging a complaint with Hertfordshire Constabulary if you are still dissatisfied with the decision you may make an application to the Information Commissioner. For information on how to make a complaint please visit their website at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/> or contact them on 0303 123 1113.