



James Hodson
Information Rights
Bedfordshire Police Headquarters,
Woburn Road, Kempston,
Bedford, MK43 9AX

Telephone: 01234 842547
Email: foi@herts.pnn.police.uk

14th September 2018

Our Ref: FOI2018/04707

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2018/04707

I write in connection with your request for information received on 20th August. I note you seek access to the following information:

Under Freedom of Information laws, could I please request the following information:

How many theft from shop offences have been reported to you where the offence has allegedly been committed at a supermarket in the following years: 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 (year to date)?

Where possible, please state for each year how many were either: theft from a person; theft from a company / business; not recorded?

For clarity, the term "supermarket" is meant to refer to the following: supermarket, superstore, rural supermarket and shop supermarket.

If this request exceeds the time frame, please work backwards from 2018 to include the most relevant information.

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.

Following enquiries within the Constabulary please see our response below.

Response - Where crimes concerning 'Thefts from Shop or Stall' (as well as Thefts from a Person or other Thefts) do mention the location, this is given as the company name. The MO Venue descriptor field covers all Shops and Stores and there is no further way of breaking down the information by type of store.

With upward of 9,000 shoplifting type crimes each year – not counting the other Thefts occurring within such premises – any manual search would exceed the time limit.

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 hundreds of 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.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

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

Yours sincerely

James Hodson
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.