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Our Ref: FOI2019/03957

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2019/03957

I write in connection with your request for information received on 18th June. I note you seek access to the following information:

Request 1

1. How many car thefts were carried out in 2018 in Bedfordshire?

Request 2

2. How many keyless car thefts were carried out in 2018 in Bedfordshire?

Request 3

3. What was the most common method of theft when breaking into a keyless car in 2018?

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 Force please see our response below.

Response - I can confirm that information relating to vehicle thefts as per your request has been published and are available quarterly on the www.gov.uk site.

Please review the below website links to assist with your request: -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-recorded-crime-open-data-tables>

[Police recorded crime open data Police Force Area tables from year ending March 2013 onwards](#)

This information is therefore exempt under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Section 21 provides that where information is available to you from another source we do not have to provide further copies. The information you have requested is available on www.gov.uk site website using the above link.

Bedfordshire Police have no way of identifying theft of vehicle crimes that were taken from a private driveway or keyless car thefts as it is not centrally recorded and would necessitate a manual search of thousands of records which will exceed the 18 hour time limit thus making Questions 3 'over cost' and implementing exemption Section 12.

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 Bedfordshire Police, 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

Gary Maxey
Information Rights

Bedfordshire Police 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 Bedfordshire Police 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.