

2nd December 2019

Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20192512

REQUEST

1.Please may I have a breakdown in numbers of catalytic converter thefts for the last five years?

A year on year breakdown of the number reported would be ideal.

2.How many arrests have been made (year on year, for the last five years) for catalytic converter theft/ the damage associated with the crime?

3.How many of the above have led to charges and/ or prosecutions?

4.Has one area been more prolific/ affected by this type of theft than another across your patch?

5.Any generic advice on the avoidance of catalytic converter theft would be appreciated.

CLARIFICATION

South Yorkshire Police has received a number of similar requests to yours in the past.

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/accessing-information/request-information-under-the-freedom-of-information-act/catalytic-converter-theft-ref-20191026/>

FROM THE REQUESTER

Thanks, but this only has a breakdown for 2016 to 2017?

RESPONSE

I approached our Crime Management Data Returns Administrator for assistance with your request. The CMS system and Connect System is used to record complaints or allegations of those matters, which the Home Office specify should be recorded as 'crimes'.

She conducted a search of the two crime management systems. (CMS - our legacy system which provides data up to 4th December 2017 and our new CONNECT system which records crimes from that date onwards)

For FOI requests such as this, we access the two separate systems and the retrieval and data extraction varies greatly dependant on the search capabilities and the inputted data. The information you receive therefore may be in two different formats depending on your time parameters, and the data we can provide which will be dependent on the search capabilities of each system. All our systems are designed and used first and foremost for Policing Purposes and have limited search capability.

She provided me with the enclosed spreadsheet and the following explanation of her search criteria:

Please find attached data and the below explanation.

CMS(ii) DATA

I have provided a count of Offence THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE recorded on CMS(ii) crime register between 01-Jan-2014 and 04-Dec-2017 with a breakdown by Crime scene District, where the Property Sub Class stolen is either VEHICLE ENGINE PARTS or VEHICLE BODY PARTS and the Property class free text field mentions Catalytic (There is no property sub class of Catalytic Converter therefore I have searched the Property Class free text field).

Of this count, I have provided a breakdown of the offence outcome.

CONNECT DATA

I have provided a count of Offence THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE recorded for CONNECT Crime between 05-Dec-2017 and 31-Oct-2019 with a breakdown by Crime scene District, where the Property Class is Catalytic Converter and the Property Status is Stolen.

Of this count, I have provided a breakdown of the offence outcome and the crime scene district.

Please note – more than one vehicle can be recorded on any offence.

We have had to take a slightly different approach to extracting the data from CONNECT as the data is not recorded in the same format as the legacy system CMS(ii). SYP have changed their central crime management system in December 2017. Therefore data from the new system cannot be used as a direct comparison due to the different ways in which crimes are recorded. However, the data has been given to comply with original request and displayed here to show an outline trend.

5.Any generic advice on the avoidance of catalytic converter theft would be appreciated.

SYP publishes crime prevention advice regularly on our website:

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/>

and specifically:

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/crime-prevention-advice/>