

19th December 2017

Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20172116

REQUEST

I am a life-long motorcyclist and Vice Chairman of the Motorcycle Action Group, the country's leading representative group for the users of motorcycles, scooters and trikes.

Our members are very concerned regarding the rise in motorcycle crime, particularly in respect to theft involving increasing levels of violence. We are therefore contacting every Police Force in respect to the levels of motorcycle crime in their areas.

We would also like to work more closely with the Police in those regions where we have active members and to help where we can.

1. Please provide details of the annual increase in the theft of motorcycles, mopeds and scooters in your Force's area for the last three years.

2. What steps are the Force taking to reduce thefts, in particular where they have seen an increase? Please provide details.

3. Does your Force have a dedicated Motorcycle Crime Officer or other point of contact in respect to these issues? If so, please provide contact details.

CLARIFICATION

Please could you clarify the following point(s): -

Q1 – FOI legislation concerns recorded information within an organisation - public bodies are not obliged to create/work out data to facilitate such requests. i.e calculate the annual increase. However, under Section 16 of the Act, I have a duty to provide advice and assistance our Crime Management System is used to record complaints or allegations of those matters, which the Home Office specify should be recorded as 'crimes'. We could therefore provide figures of Crime Stats for the last 3 years involving motorcycle/mopeds/scooters etc which may be useful for your research. Would this be sufficient?

Q2 – I can contact our Road Policing Team to check if we have a specific motorcycle theft policy in place and if we have a dedicated motorcycle officer.

RESPONSE FROM REQUESTER

The crime stats for that last 3 years will be acceptable thank you.

RESPONSE

Q1 -

I approached our Crime Management System (CMS) Administrator for assistance with your request. The CMS system is used to record complaints or allegations of those matters, which the Home Office specify should be recorded as 'crimes'. She provided me with the below data and explanation of her search criteria:

I have included a count of offences recorded on the CMS crime register between 01-Jan-2014 and 30-Nov-2017 where the Vehicle Type MOPED, SCOOTER or MOTORCYCLE have been recorded as stolen. I have also included a count of the number of vehicles stolen, as more than one vehicle can be recorded as stolen on any offence.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE

COUNT OF OFFENCES RECORDED ON THE CMS CRIME REGISTER WHERE EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING AS BEEN RECORDED AS STOLEN - MOPED, MOTORCYCLE & SCOOTER WHERE THE OFFENCE WAS RECORDED BETWEEN 01-JAN-2017 AND 30-NOV-2017

HOME OFFICE OFFENCE CLASS	YEAR OFFENCE RECORDED			
	2014	2015	2016	2017
AGGRAVATED VEHICLE TAKING	3	3	3	5
ASSAULT WITH INJURY	1	0	0	0
ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO CAUSE SERIOUS HARM	0	1	0	0
ATTEMPTED BURGLARY IN A DWELLING	1	0	0	0
ATTEMPTED BURGLARY RESIDENTIAL	0	0	0	1
BURGLARY BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY	0	0	0	9
BURGLARY IN A BUILDING OTHER THAN A DWELLING	134	106	114	19
BURGLARY IN A DWELLING	24	23	15	3
BURGLARY- RESIDENTIAL	0	0	0	53
GOING EQUIPPED FOR STEALING, ETC	0	0	0	1
OTHER THEFT OR UNAUTHORISED TAKING	6	4	5	2
ROBBERY OF BUSINESS PROPERTY	0	1	0	0
ROBBERY OF PERSONAL PROPERTY	6	3	14	12
SHOPLIFTING	0	1	0	0
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE	4	2	7	4
THEFT IN A DWELLING OTHER THAN FROM AUTOMATIC MACHINE OR METER	0	1	0	0
THEFT OR UNAUTHORISED TAKING OF MOTOR VEHICLE	393	350	451	381

OF THE ABOVE, THE BELOW IS COUNT OF THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES RECORDED AS STOLEN

YEAR OFFENCE RECORDED

VEHICLE TYPE RECORDED AS STOLEN	2014	2015	2016	2017
MOPED	71	60	70	61
MOTORCYCLE	436	380	477	351
SCOOTER	109	78	108	98

I also contacted South Yorkshire Police Road Policing Team and each of our four districts – Sheffield, Rotherham, Barnsley and Doncaster for assistance with these questions.

Q2 –

We now have a dedicated off road motorbike team and have implemented the new pursuit APP which now allows greater flexibility to pursue motorcycles, something which has been extremely restricted until the recent change a couple of weeks ago. We now also have staff trained to deploy stinger/stopstick against motorcycles so now have other tactical resolutions in place to apprehend stolen motorcycles and use pre-emptive tactics to deflate tyres before in pursuit. With regards specific crime reduction strategies I am not aware of any centrally within SYP but each local policing team will deal with case-by-case concerns appropriate and proportionate to that identified problem area.

Q3 -

Each district has their own crime preventions work on going and do have off road trained officers to tackle ASB and Criminality associated with urban off road motorcycles and we as previously advised have Motorcycle Trained Officers but not dedicated Motorcycle Crime Officers.

Therefore our response to this question is one of “No Information Held”