



**METROPOLITAN  
POLICE**

**Freedom of Information Request Reference No: 01.FOI.19.011840**

I note you seek access to the following information:

I would like to get detailed stats of catalytic converter thefts over the last 5 years.

I would like the data to contain

1. Breakdown by boroughs
2. Breakdown by car make and model
3. By dates / weeks / months if possible
4. I would also like to get details of the number of people who were questioned, convicted and length of sentences.
5. Would also like details on whatever investigations have revealed on the organised nature of the after market that exists for this components.

**DECISION**

I have today decided to disclose some of the located information. Some data has been withheld as it is exempt from disclosure and therefore this response serves as a Refusal Notice under Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

**Section 31(1)(a)(b) - Law enforcement**

**Section 30 - Investigations and proceedings conducted by public authorities**

**REASON FOR DECISION**

**Section 31(1)(a)(b) - Law enforcement**

In considering whether or not all the requested information should be disclosed, the MPS has considered the potential prejudice that could be caused by any further disclosure.

The prejudice in this instance relates specifically to the law enforcement functions of the MPS. To disclose all the requested information namely, dates, week number and model of car, by way of a disclosure to the World would harm the law enforcement functions mentioned above, of the MPS. Disclosure of this information would also compromise the future law enforcement capabilities of the police, as those who wish to commit offences could use the disclosure to gain an operational advantage. The MPS is therefore satisfied that disclosure of all the requested information would be harmful.

Having acknowledged that the public will be more informed if this additional information was released, the benefit of disclosure does not outweigh the stronger arguments for non-disclosure in this case.

The MPS therefore finds that in these circumstances the public interest has already been met by the provision of the information provided in this response for questions 1 - 4.

### **Section 30 - Investigations and proceedings conducted by public authorities**

The security of the general public is of paramount importance and the MPS will not divulge whether any information is or is not held if to do so would undermine law enforcement or place individual(s) at risk. Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing operations and providing assurance that the police service is appropriately and effectively engaging with such policing matters, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding the integrity of police investigations and operations.

Therefore, I have determined that confirmation or denial of any information being held by the MPS relating to question 5 would not be in the public interest.

### **DISCLOSURE**

**In regards to Questions 1 – 3:** Please find attached to this response the requested information, broken down by Borough, Month and car Make. Any further breakdown of date/week and model of car is exempt by virtue of section 31.

**In regards to Question 4:** I have provided the number of persons proceeded against for these offences. However, please note that the MPS would not hold conviction data / length of sentence, as once charged this would be a matter for the Courts. I can advise that the Ministry of Justice is responsible for the Courts in England and Wales by way of the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice>

**In regards to Question 5:** The MPS can neither confirm nor deny such information is held regarding these specific investigations, by virtue of section 30(3) – Investigations.

### **Section 16 – Advice and assistance**

To provide you with some general advice regarding thefts of catalytic converters please see the following link to the MPS Publication Scheme:

[https://www.met.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/foi-media/metropolitan-police/disclosure\\_2019/february\\_2019/information-rights-unit---thefts-of-catalytic-converters-from-motor-vehicles-from-2013-to-2018](https://www.met.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/foi-media/metropolitan-police/disclosure_2019/february_2019/information-rights-unit---thefts-of-catalytic-converters-from-motor-vehicles-from-2013-to-2018)

I would like to thank you for your interest in the MPS.

**Information Rights Unit**

## Thefts of catalytic converters

**01/01/2015 to 17/10/2019**

Protective Marking	<b>OFFICIAL</b>
Suitable for Publication Scheme	<b>Yes</b>
Ad-Hoc Reference Number	
FOIA/MOPAC Ref Number	
Summary	Thefts of catalytic converters for the period 01/01/2015 to 17/10/2019
Creating Branch / Directorate	MetHQ - Information and Insight
Date Created	22/10/2019
Review Date	<b>21/10/2020</b>

**This report uses LIVE DATA extracted from: CRIS**

**Date Live data was extracted: 17/10/2019**

Police forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide crime statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the crime data. It should be noted that for these reasons this force's response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you may receive.

## Notes

**Source System** The live data for this report was extracted from CRIS on 17/10/2019.

**Date Range** The recorded date for the period from 1 January 2015 to 17 October 2019.

**Definition** Data is a count of property screens with the property type LT (Vehicle Catalytic converter).

And where the record has the below property status:

RA - Property (inc. m/v) recovered in full and undamaged (exc. Property found to have not been stolen)

RB - Property (inc. m/v) fully recovered but damaged.

RC - Property (inc. m/v) partially recovered.

RD - Property (exc. m/v) partially recovered in damaged condition.

SA - Property (inc. m/v) stolen/taken (exc. 'handled' or 'obt by deception').

FB - Property (inc. m/v) obtained by deception.

## **Caveats**

Please be aware that this is the count of property screens and as such it may not be a true count of property stolen as more than one catalytic converter can be recorded on one screen, in order to get a true count would require to individually read each record.

Table 1 presents theft counts yearly and monthly - we would not present individual record details therefore it does not present information by date.

Table 4 presents overall number of catalytic converter thefts broken down by whether there is one or more vehicles with the role of "theft from". It is not possible to say which vehicle had a catalytic converter stolen from within records that have more than one vehicle with the role of "theft from". It also depicts the number of thefts where a field was left blank.

**Police forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide crime statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the crime data. It should be noted that for these reasons this force's response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you may receive.**

**IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that the Notes Page is read in conjunction with the data in this report to ensure that it is interpreted correctly.

**Table 1: Thefts of catalytic converters for the period 01/01/2015 to 17/10/2019**

Count of Crime No	Month												Grand Total
	Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	
2015	81	50	86	82	95	80	69	49	61	83	89	42	867
2016	37	40	36	21	15	9	13	14	9	17	16	16	243
2017	19	10	15	30	24	18	9	6	13	19	7	3	173
2018	6	6	14	10	17	59	71	150	283	161	420	297	1494
2019	343	276	514	592	422	366	753	997	1412	469*			6144
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>1216</b>	<b>1778</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>8921</b>

\* Data to 17th Oct only

**Table 2: Thefts of catalytic converters by Borough for the period 01/01/2015 to 17/10/2019**

Count of Crime No	Borough																			
	Year	Barking & Dagenham	Barnet	Bexley	Brent	Bromley	Camden	Croydon	Ealing	Enfield	Greenwich	Hackney	Hammersmith & Fulham	Haringey	Harrow	Havering	Heathrow	Hillingdon	Hounslow	Islington
2015	52	47	21	38	27	6	30	49	65	35	13	6	20	24	21	0	69	46	6	
2016	20	11	10	9	4	1	6	22	21	4	7	5	14	3	13	0	9	6	4	
2017	8	8	3	20	3	0	4	8	3	4	4	3	3	19	10	1	22	8	1	
2018	31	121	4	109	7	28	49	118	57	29	34	64	42	93	9	1	153	94	22	
2019	143	577	180	333	178	215	256	179	342	244	151	87	291	143	97	17	116	119	177	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>210</b>	

**Table 3: Breakdown of thefts of catalytic converters by vehicle make for the period 01/01/2015 to 17/10/2019 where only one vehicle has a role of "theft from"**

Vehicle Make	Count of Crime No
No car within the report with role of "theft from" (RD)	841
AUDI	3
BMW	6
CITROEN	42
DAEWOO	1
DAF	2
FIAT	7
FORD	124
HONDA	1895
HYUNDAI	7
IVECO	2
KIA	8
LAND ROVER	2
LDV	2
LEXUS	424
LONDON TAXIS INT	2
MAZDA	15
MERCEDES - BENZ	429
MINI	20
NISSAN	9
OPEL	1
PEUGEOT	26
PIAGGIO	2
RENAULT	14
ROVER	1
SAAB	1
SEAT	51
SKODA	1
SMART	1
SUBARU	2
SUZUKI	7
TOYOTA	4392
TRAILER - MAKE UNKNOWN	1
VAUXHALL	48
VOLKSWAGEN	161
VOLVO	5
YAMAHA	2
YUAN	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>8558</b>

**Table 4: Count of Crime No by the number of vehicles with the role of "theft from" for the period 01/01/2015 to 17/10/2019**

No of vehicles with role "theft from"	unt of Crime
1 vehicle only	8558
more than 1 vehicle	124
Field left blank	239
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>8921</b>

**Table 5: Count of People proceeded against for the thefts of catalytic converters for the period 01/01/2015 to 17/10/2019**

Count of People Proceeded Against
37

Police forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide crime statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the crime data. It should be noted that for these reasons this force's response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you may receive.

Kensington & Chelsea	Kingston Upon Thames	Lambeth	Lewisham	Merton	Newham	Redbridge	Richmond Upon Thames	Southwark	Sutton	Tower Hamlets	Waltham Forest	Wandsworth	Westminster	Grand Total
2	21	10	25	27	34	72	9	6	10	2	39	31	4	<b>867</b>
2	2	1	7	5	13	11	3	4	2	5	14	3	2	<b>243</b>
0	6	1	5	2	5	7	3	2	0	2	4	1	3	<b>173</b>
23	23	30	33	16	35	41	42	42	11	22	31	53	27	<b>1494</b>
71	139	138	193	129	248	313	86	151	140	130	238	233	90	<b>6144</b>
98	191	180	263	179	335	444	143	205	163	161	326	321	126	8921



