



15th December 2025

Request to Northamptonshire Police

I am writing to make a freedom of information request for data held in relation to shoplifting offences recorded between January 2015 and the end of December 2024.

Question 1

Based on keyword searches, please provide me with offence and outcome data held for all shoplifting crimes involving the following items:

A) Menstrual products (a non-exhaustive list of relevant keywords would also include: feminine hygiene products, tampons, sanitary pads, Tampax, period products, Always pads, mooncup, panty liners)

B) Baby food or formula (a non-exhaustive list of relevant keywords would also include: baby milk, formula milk, baby milk powder, toddler milk, infant formula)

I would like the data to include a breakdown of the offences by:

- The calendar year the crime was recorded*
- Either the month or the calendar quarter the crime was recorded*
- The offence code*
- The name of the offence*
- Details recorded about the item(s) stolen*
- The outcome recorded, as per Home Office outcome types category (eg outcome 1 - charge/summons, outcome 2 - caution, etc)*
- The sex of the suspect*
- The officer defined ethnicity of the suspect, where available*
- The self reported ethnicity of the suspect, where available*
- The age of the suspect if possible, or the age group if not (eg under 10, 10-17, 18-20, 21-30, 31-40, 41-50, 51-60, 61-70, 71+)*



- The data table should follow the format of one row per offence recorded, with column headers consisting of the above bullet points (eg year, month/quarter etc). Please provide data for menstrual products and baby food separately, in separate tables.

I would like the data provided in a machine readable format, as either an XLS spreadsheet or CSV. Please do not provide a PDF.

Question 2

As per the flagging process outlined in the Home Office Annual Data Requirement, please provide me with data held on offence and outcome data held for all shoplifting crimes where it has been flagged that the offence, suspect or victim was linked to modern slavery.

I would like the data to include a breakdown of the offences by:

- The calendar year the crime was recorded*
- Either the month or the calendar quarter the crime was recorded*
- The offence code*
- The name of the offence*
- Details recorded about the item(s) stolen*
- Any details recorded about the circumstances of the slavery flag*
- The outcome recorded, as per Home Office outcome types category (eg outcome 1 - charge/summons, outcome 2 - caution, etc)*
- The sex of the suspect*
- The officer defined ethnicity of the suspect, where available*
- The self reported ethnicity of the suspect, where available*
- The age of the suspect if possible, or the age group if not (eg under 10, 10-17, 18-20, 21-30, 31-40, 41-50, 51-60, 61-70, 71+)*

The data table should follow the format of one row per offence recorded, with column headers consisting of the above bullet points (eg year, month/quarter etc).



Response

Question 1A

The below tables show all shoplifting crimes recorded in the requested time period where a keyword search has been conducted in the crime summaries under the following words: feminine hygiene products, tampons, sanitary pads, Tampax, period products, Always pads, mooncup, panty liners'. Please note that if a keyword has not been mentioned in the summaries, then it will not be included in the total.

Month/Year	Count
2015-04	1
2015-05	1
2015-08	1
2015-09	1
2017-09	1
2019-09	1
2023-03	1
2024-03	1
2024-10	1
Grand Total	9

Outcome	Count
Charged	2
Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	1
Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	1
Adult caution	1
Community resolution	4
Grand Total	9

Age Range (Years)	Count
10 to 17	2
21 to 30	3
31 to 40	2
41 to 50	5
71+	1
Grand Total	13

Please note that due to low numbers recorded, we are unable to provide further details on any of the above crimes as long with any information already in the available in the public domain, this could lead to identification of victims or offenders involved. For this reason, please find Section 40 (2) applied below.

Section 40(2) Personal Information

The exemption applicable to the information you have requested for this question can be found at Section 40(2) Personal Information, of the Act and this refusal notice is issued under Section 17.

Due to the very low numbers, the chances of identification are extremely high. Information of this nature is the personal sensitive information of that individual.



To make a disclosure here would be in breach of the first GDPR data protection principle (Data Protection Act 2018) which is for data to be processed lawfully, fairly and transparently. Also, it may lead to the identification of individuals concerned or permit further information to be gleaned around the circumstances of each case.

Northamptonshire Police is withholding the information you have requested on the basis that the exemption contained in s 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act applies in that the information you have requested is personal data of third parties and the disclosure of the data would breach one of the principles contained in the Data Protection Act. The relevant principle is the first principle which states that:

Personal data shall be processed fairly and lawfully and in particular shall not be processed unless –

(a) at least one of the conditions in Schedule 2 is met and

(b) in the case of sensitive personal data, at least one of the conditions in Schedule 3 is met

It is only necessary to consider (a) in respect of the information requested. The relevant condition in Schedule 2 is condition 6 which states that:

"The processing is necessary for the purposes of legitimate interests pursued by the data controller or by the third party or parties to whom the data are disclosed, except where the processing is unwarranted in any particular case by reason of prejudice to the rights and freedoms or legitimate interests of the data subject".

Question 1B

To extract the data below, we have conducted a keyword search on the following terms- 'baby milk, formula milk, baby milk powder, toddler milk, infant formula'.

Month	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Grand Total
January		2	5	1	2			1	2	1	14
February	1	1	3	1	2	1				2	11
March			1			1				1	3
April		3		1	1	1	1			1	8
May	1	2	2	1			1			1	8
June	2			4	4			1			11



July	1	1	1	1	4				1	4	13
August	1	2	4	1	3				1	3	15
September	3		1	3	1						8
October	3			3	1	1		1	1		10
November	3		1	1		1			1		7
December			1	1	3				1		6
Grand Total	15	11	19	18	21	5	2	3	7	13	114

Suspect Gender	Count of Person ID (Suspect)
Female	34
Male	60
Grand Total	94

Officer Defined Ethnicity	Count of Person ID (Suspect)	Self Defined Ethnicity	Count of Person ID (Suspect)
Not specified	72	Not specified	72
Unknown	<5	Black Caribbean	<5
White - North European	16	White & Black Caribbean	<5
Black	<5	Any other mixed background	<5
Grand Total	94	Not stated	5
		White British	9
		Any other white background	<5
		Grand Total	94

Age Range (Years)	Count
10 to 17	2
18 to 20	8
21 to 30	30
31 to 40	43
41 to 50	7
51 to 60	4
Grand Total	94





Outcome	Count
Charged	43
Summonsed/postal requisition	3
Police - formal action not in public interest	1
CPS - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	1
15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	30
Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	10
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified	4
Alternate offence summonsed/postal requisition	1
Youth caution	1
Adult caution	2
TIC (taken into consideration)	7
Community resolution	7
Hist - Resolved - 15.0 Suspect NFA evi diff	4
Grand Total	114



Question 2

The tables below reflect results against our crime recording system for shoplifting offences which included the keyword 'slavery'.

Month	Count	Outcome	Count	Age Range (Years)	Count
2016-11	1	Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	3	10 to 17	9
2018-03	1	Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	2	41 to 50	1
2018-12	2	Penalty notice for disorder	1	Grand Total	10
2019-01	1	Community resolution	5		
2020-03	1	Grand Total	11		
2021-04	1				
2022-07	1				
2022-10	2				
2024-02	1				
Grand Total	11				

Please note that due to low numbers recorded, we are unable to provide further details on any of the above crimes as long with any information already in the available in the public domain, this could lead to identification of victims or offenders involved. For this reason, please find Section 40 (2) applied below.

Section 40(2) Personal Information

The exemption applicable to the information you have requested for this question can be found at Section 40(2) Personal Information, of the Act and this refusal notice is issued under Section 17. Please see our explanation above for further details.

The numerical data presented in this response is an un-audited snapshot of unpublished data sourced from "live" systems and is subject to the interpretation of the original request by the individual extracting the data. The figures provided are therefore our best interpretation of relevance of data to your request, but you should be aware that the collation of figures for ad hoc requests may have limitations, and this should be taken into account when the data is used.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or the decision that Northamptonshire Police have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) regarding access to



information, you can lodge an appeal with the Northamptonshire Police to have the decision reviewed. Appeals should be made in writing within 20 days of receipt of your reply and emailed to freedomofinformation@northants.police.uk or addressed to:

Freedom of Information Manager

Information Unit

Darby House

Darby Close

Wellingborough

NN8 6GS

Where possible the Northamptonshire Police will aim to respond to your appeal within 20 working days. However, meeting this time scale will depend upon the circumstances and complexity of the issue.

The Information Commissioner

After lodging an appeal with the Northamptonshire Police, if you are still dissatisfied with the decision, you may make an application to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make an application to the Information Commissioner please visit their website at www.ico.org.uk Alternatively, telephone or write to:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF

Phone: 0303 123 1113

