



28th November 2025

Request to Northamptonshire Police

- 1. How many reports of making off without payment (MOWP) has your force recorded between January 2020 and January 2025? Please break this information down by month and calendar year.*
- 2. My understanding is your force may log when a MOWP offence specifically occurs at a petrol station/forecourt. Therefore, over the same period, how many reports has your force recorded relating to people driving off from petrol filling stations without attempting to pay, colloquially known as 'drive offs', or driving off without paying for fuel? Please also break this information down on a month-by month and year-by-year basis. If the following addition would not cause this request to exceed the 18-hour time limit, please include a breakdown of how many of these instances related to the theft of petrol, and how many to diesel, each year.*
- 3. Over the same period, please provide, if possible, the recorded value of the fuel taken in drive-offs, broken down month-by-month and year-by-year.*
- 4. Please provide a resolution/clear-up report on drive-off offences over the same five years – EG numbers of summons, community resolutions, undetected etc, broken down month-by-month and year-by-year.*
- 5. Please inform me, if possible, the names of the five petrol stations that reported the most drive-off offences for each of the five years in question, including details of the value of fuel taken from each station each year, broken down year by year.*

Response

Question 1

Northamptonshire Police has searched its crime recording system and found 1642 reported incidents of making off without payment throughout the specified period (January 2020 – January 2025). Please find the requested breakdown by month and year below: -



Incident YYYY- MM	Crime Count
2020-01	39
2020-02	29
2020-03	29
2020-04	13
2020-05	15
2020-06	22
2020-07	31
2020-08	30
2020-09	26
2020-10	23
2020-11	21
2020-12	25
2021-01	15
2021-02	25
2021-03	19
2021-04	13
2021-05	23
2021-06	17
2021-07	23
2021-08	30
2021-09	19
2021-10	35
2021-11	30
2021-12	27
2022-01	22
2022-02	26
2022-03	46
2022-04	36
2022-05	19
2022-06	28
2022-07	33
2022-08	42
2022-09	32
2022-10	25



2022-11	40
2022-12	40
2023-01	23
2023-02	28
2023-03	34
2023-04	27
2023-05	31
2023-06	30
2023-07	32
2023-08	24
2023-09	26
2023-10	25
2023-11	21
2023-12	45
2024-01	35
2024-02	22
2024-03	46
2024-04	26
2024-05	27
2024-06	21
2024-07	20
2024-08	35
2024-09	28
2024-10	17
2024-11	19
2024-12	18
2025-01	14
Sum:	1642

Question 2

We have identified 1114 reported incidents of making off from a petrol station without attempting to make payment throughout the specified period (January 2020 – January 2025). For this, we searched using the terms 'Petrol Station', 'Station' 'Shell', 'Service' 'Petrol' and 'Filling'. Please find the requested breakdown by month and year below: -



Incident YYYY-MM	Crime Count
2020-01	28
2020-02	16
2020-03	22
2020-04	8
2020-05	10
2020-06	16
2020-07	22
2020-08	8
2020-09	13
2020-10	8
2020-11	14
2020-12	11
2021-01	8
2021-02	16
2021-03	11
2021-04	11
2021-05	13
2021-06	7
2021-07	20
2021-08	23
2021-09	10
2021-10	29
2021-11	26
2021-12	17
2022-01	16
2022-02	18
2022-03	31
2022-04	24
2022-05	13
2022-06	18
2022-07	25



2022-08	34
2022-09	19
2022-10	17
2022-11	30
2022-12	33
2023-01	19
2023-02	19
2023-03	27
2023-04	21
2023-05	26
2023-06	20
2023-07	21
2023-08	16
2023-09	20
2023-10	16
2023-11	13
2023-12	37
2024-01	30
2024-02	18
2024-03	37
2024-04	17
2024-05	15
2024-06	9
2024-07	11
2024-08	20
2024-09	16
2024-10	6
2024-11	13
2024-12	14
2025-01	8
Sum:	1114

To establish what fuel type was made of was recorded with would require our analysts to manually review 1114 incidents. At approximately two minutes per record, this would exceed the appropriate cost limit of £450, engaging an exemption under s12(1) Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

Please accept this as a Refusal Notice for this part of your request, as required by s17(1) of the Act.



Question 3

To establish if the value of stolen fuel was recorded would require our analysts to manually review 1114 incidents. At approximately two minutes per record, this would exceed the appropriate cost limit of £450, engaging an exemption under s12(2) Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

Please accept this as a Refusal Notice for this part of your request, as required by s17(1) of the Act.

Question 4

Please find below the outcomes for all reported offences of making off without paying for fuel throughout the specified period (January 2020 – January 2025).

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Sum:
15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	6	3	1	3	2		15
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified		1	2	3	1		7
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified	168	185	269	246	201	8	1077
1: Charged	1	2	6	2			11
1: Summoned/postal requisition				1	1		2
21: Police - named suspect, investigation not in the public interest					1		1
8: Community resolution	1						1
Sum:	176	191	278	255	206	8	1114



Question 5

Please find below the top five Petrol Stations who reported the most incidents of people making off without paying for fuel. For the reasons mentioned above, it is not possible to provide the value of fuel stolen from each.

Business Name & Location	Reported Thefts
Grange Farm Service Station	159
Brackley Service Station	77
Sainsburys (Wellingborough)	65
Morrisons (Corby)	58
Morrisons (Northampton)	43

The numerical data presented in this response is an un-audited snapshot of un-published 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