



SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE
SAFER COMMUNITIES

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Your Ref : 23-2415
Telephone: 7322 3347
Facsimile: 7322 4180

The Advertiser
Attn: [REDACTED]
31 Waymouth Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

In reference to your application made pursuant to the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (FOI Act), access was sought to:

"Documents related to fuel drive off offences between 2017 and 2022 inclusive as well as up to the date of the application being finalised in 2023 (so for eg June 21) (or the first five months of 2023). For each calendar year: - The number of reports from retailers/ petrol stations/ members of the public on fuel-related thefts; - The number of SACAD event - The number of investigations opened into an a fuel drive off offence; - The number of offenders arrested and/or charged for such an offence; - The number of successful prosecutions. - Please provide a breakdown of thefts by suburb. - Any copies of general orders that outline how officers should deal with said thefts Please allow a 28 grace period to allow for appeal processes to lapse before publishing on disclosure logs."

South Australia Police (SAPOL) has sourced information relative to your request. For ease of viewing, your request has been broken down into parts and any grounds on which access has been refused has been detailed below.

In relation to this part of your request

"Documents related to fuel drive off offences between 2017 and 2022 inclusive as well as up to the date of the application being finalised in 2023 (so for eg June 21) (or the first five months of 2023)."

SAPOL transitioned to a new data management system at the end of 2018. The data was migrated to the new system resulting in a different methodology of data extraction to that which was available prior to the implementation of the new system.

Fuel thefts are easily identifiable from 2019 onwards as they are now recorded in SAPOL systems with a specific code for fuel theft as a sub code within ANZSOC code 0829 'Theft (other than motor vehicles)'. This sub code was not in use prior to 2019 though, hence fuel thefts prior to 2019 are stored within the broader category of Theft (other than motor vehicles).



**Government of
South Australia**

Service Integrity Leadership Collaboration Courage Respect

South Australia Police, GPO Box 1539, Adelaide SA 5001

ABN 93 799 021 552

www.police.sa.gov.au



Identifying which offences prior to 2019 pertain to fuel theft would require a manual review of all offences classed as 'Theft (other than motor vehicles)'; there were 41928 such offences in 2017 and 2018. Without the afore mentioned manual review SAPOL does not hold any documents relative to these dates for this part of your request.

Subsequently data has been presented for the period in which we do hold documents; that being, 01/01/2019 to 31/05/2023.

In relation to this part of your request

"For each calendar year: - The number of reports from retailers/ petrol stations/ members of the public on fuel-related thefts;"

Number of Occurrences (reports) with an ANZSOC descriptor of 'Theft – Fuel drive off'

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
Fuel theft occurrences	8620	5995	6706	7091	3788

*up to 31/05/2023

Note that some Occurrences contain more than one offence.

In relation to this part of your request

"For each calendar year: - The number of SACAD event"

Note that the specific SACAD code for Fuel Drive Offs (301-P) was not implemented until 01/06/2018, therefore for the same reasons as above data is presented from this time-point onwards.

SACAD Events with a code of 301-P (Fuel drive off)

	2018 [#]	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
301-P Fuel theft SACAD Events	5002	5048	2276	1959	2120	932

[#]01/06/2018 – 31/12/2018

*up to 31/05/2023

In relation to this part of your request

"For each calendar year: - The number of investigations opened into an a fuel drive off offence;"

SAPOL hold no documents relative to this part of your request as it is not possible to accurately extract en masse from SAPOL systems the number of fuel theft occurrences which progressed to an 'investigation'. The nature of enquiries undertaken for fuel theft offences occur as part of a continuum of potential investigative actions, typically beginning with vehicle history checks which are undertaken at the time the offence is reported. A range of factors influence the extent to which a fuel theft is investigated e.g. availability and quality of CCTV, whether an accurate vehicle description was obtained etc. The presence of these factors and actions taken in response to these factors are described in detail within the body of each occurrence. There is no definitive data field that states whether the occurrence was investigated or not.

In relation to this part of your request

"For each calendar year: - The number of offenders arrested and/or charged for such an offence;"

The relevant charge for fuel theft is 'Making off without payment'. Below is the number of offenders charged with this offence by year of charge, excluding when the offence summary indicated that the offence did not relate to fuel.

Number of offenders charged with making off without payment (fuel theft)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
Number of offenders charged	417	356	293	280	121

*up to 31/05/2023

In relation to this part of your request

"For each calendar year: - The number of successful prosecutions."

As a result of a phone conversation with you on Friday, 30 June 2023 you agreed to withdraw this part of your application. It was suggested you contact the Courts Administration Authority should require information related to court outcomes in the future.

In relation to this part of your request

"For each calendar year: - Please provide a breakdown of thefts by suburb."

FUEL THEFT OFFENCES BY SUBURB					
SUBURB	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
ABERFOYLE PARK	30	6	35	28	14
ADELAIDE	108	64	107	86	57
ADELAIDE AIRPORT			1	1	
ALBERTON	5	14	15	4	14
ALDGATE		1	1	1	1
ALDINGA	77	56	68	56	35
ALDINGA BEACH	14	11	10	33	11
ANDREWS FARM				2	
ANGLE PARK	59	81	87	56	7
ANGLE VALE	126	121	124	136	61
ARDROSSAN					1
ASCOT PARK					1
ATHELSTONE	11	5	4	4	1
AUBURN	1	1			
BALAKLAVA				2	
BALHANNAH	6	10	8	11	2
BARMERA			2	2	
BEACHPORT	1				
BELAIR	11	25	13	5	5
BERRI	2	5	2	8	4
BEVERLEY	1				
BIRDWOOD		2		5	2
BIRKENHEAD	1				
BLACKWOOD	6	13	11	18	6

FUEL THEFT OFFENCES BY SUBURB					
SUBURB	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
BLAIR ATHOL	160	72	65	57	48
BLAKEVIEW	61	26	25	27	7
BLANCHETOWN	2	3	4	3	
BOLIVAR	229	135	174	220	117
BORDERTOWN	16	12	11	29	9
BRIDGEWATER	2	1	2		
BRIGHTON	77	33	70	66	34
BROADVIEW	134	94	84	71	5
BROMPTON	77	42	41	47	32
BROOKLYN PARK	27	20	21	28	10
BURRA	1	1			3
BURTON	82	27	34	17	4
CADELL	1				
CALLINGTON			1		
CAMDEN PARK	1	7	8	3	
CAMPBELLTOWN	18	14	19	9	3
CAVAN	74	42	23	36	37
CEDUNA	4	5	7	6	11
CHRISTIES BEACH	102	71	49	30	34
CLARE	15	11	6	13	1
CLARENCE GARDENS				1	3
CLARENCE PARK	61	34	28	35	16
CLEARVIEW			5	4	1
CLEVE				1	
CLOVELLY PARK	1	1		4	14
COCKATOO VALLEY			1	1	1
COFFIN BAY				1	3
COLLINSWOOD	13	5	8		
COMPTON		1			
COOBER PEDY	7	1	3	5	4
COOMANDOOK	1				
COONALPYN				1	
COORABIE	2	1	2	3	1
COWELL	2			1	
CRAFERS	7	2		16	1
CRAIGMORE				1	
CROYDON PARK	19	27	13	12	6
CRYSTAL BROOK	1				
CUMBERLAND PARK	11	5	3	4	4
DARLINGTON	32	19	13	12	8
DAVOREN PARK	118	88	73	77	74
DAW PARK	7				
DERNANCOURT	35	31	37	33	10
DIREK	43	28	44	39	18
DRY CREEK	94	59	58	25	40
DUBLIN	6		5	2	
EDEN HILLS	2	1	5		3
EDINBURGH NORTH			1	2	12
EDITHBURGH				1	
EDWARDSTOWN	51	30	38	41	13
ELIZABETH	93	70	93	92	47
ELIZABETH DOWNS	41	53	53	44	19
ELIZABETH NORTH		1		2	

FUEL THEFT OFFENCES BY SUBURB					
SUBURB	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
ELIZABETH PARK	51	32	38	42	18
ELIZABETH SOUTH	88	45	51	68	29
ELIZABETH VALE	14	13	8	18	8
ELLISTON		1	1	1	
ENFIELD	30	17	15	11	5
ERINDALE	2	2	1	4	3
EUDUNDA				1	
EVANDALE	47	35	14	28	17
EVANSTON	42	22	13	27	14
EVANSTON PARK	50	42	44	60	32
EXETER	10	6	5	5	1
EYRE		6	41	60	25
FAIRVIEW PARK	13	21	1	4	1
FELIXSTOW	10	8	11	6	4
FINDON	16	8	5	9	1
FLINDERS PARK	33	13	5	16	9
FLINDERS RANGES				1	
FRANCES				1	
FULHAM	5	2	2		2
FULHAM GARDENS	16	7	5	8	9
FULLARTON	15	30	38	52	29
GAWLER	31	33	18	24	19
GAWLER EAST			13	25	18
GAWLER WEST	5				
GEPPS CROSS	1	60	163	197	65
GILLES PLAINS	34	19	15	12	8
GILLMAN	3	2	3		2
GLADSTONE				1	
GLANDORE		20	36	58	30
GLEN OSMOND	55	51	39	49	38
GLENBURNIE			2	7	6
GLENDAMBO	3	1		7	2
GLENELG EAST	23	14	5	2	1
GLENELG NORTH	18	7	9	14	5
GLENGOWRIE	31	35	40	18	17
GLENSIDE	34	32	33	51	23
GLENUNGA	36	10	31	37	21
GLOSSOP			1	1	
GOLDEN GROVE	46	29	19	28	24
GOODWOOD					1
GOOLWA	2	1	2	2	1
GOOLWA BEACH	5	2	3	2	
GRANGE	21	5	3	5	5
GREEN FIELDS	27	15	27	23	4
GREENACRES	22	30	58	61	42
GREENOCK		1			
HACKHAM	7	5	3	3	1
HACKNEY	12	8	13	1	2
HALLETT	1	1			
HALLETT COVE	10	5	6	4	2
HAMLEY BRIDGE				1	
HAMPSTEAD GARDENS		2	5	11	3
HAWKER		2			

FUEL THEFT OFFENCES BY SUBURB					
SUBURB	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
HAWTHORN	5		2	2	
HAYBOROUGH	2	6	7	17	10
HAZELWOOD PARK	8	5	15	9	3
HECTORVILLE	6	2	3	17	4
HENLEY BEACH		3			
HILLBANK	135	171	208	185	113
HILLCREST	32	29	14	24	24
HILTON	75	56	33	44	41
HINDMARSH			1	45	11
HOLDEN HILL	78	28	38	47	10
HOPE VALLEY	36	35	21	31	12
HUNTFIELD HEIGHTS	1				
INGLE FARM				1	
INNAMINCKA		2			
JAMESTOWN					1
KADINA	11	3	8	9	6
KALBEEBA		1			
KAPUNDA	14	2	16	16	12
KEITH	6	5	14	5	3
KENSINGTON	16	7	13	4	2
KENSINGTON GARDENS	6	9	10	5	4
KENSINGTON PARK				1	1
KENT TOWN	9	1	8	8	6
KERSBROOK	1		2	1	
KESWICK	34	7	7	4	6
KIDMAN PARK		1			
KILBURN	92	55	47	33	13
KILKENNY	5	3	11	15	7
KIMBA	1			4	1
KINGSCOTE			1	3	3
KINGSTON ON MURRAY	1				
KINGSTON SE	1				
KINGSWOOD	52	30	25	13	12
KLEMZIG	33	30	56	48	9
KURRALTA PARK	81	32	35	51	30
KYANCUTTA	1				
LARGS BAY	55	32	31	56	21
LEIGH CREEK		1			
LIGHTSVIEW	43	10	12	17	7
LINDEN PARK	5	7	4	7	1
LITTLEHAMPTON	9	17	17	14	13
LOCK	1				
LONSDALE			36	46	17
LOWER LIGHT	1				1
LOXTON	4	2	1	1	2
LYNDOCH		1			1
MAGILL	2	1	3	3	1
MAITLAND			1		1
MANNUM	12	14	13	18	4
MANSFIELD PARK	8	10	13	15	6
MARDEN	1		1		
MARION	18	4	12	25	11
MARLA	5	2	1	2	2

FUEL THEFT OFFENCES BY SUBURB					
SUBURB	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
MARRYATVILLE	3	3	4	5	1
MAWSON LAKES	200	74	110	72	33
MCCRACKEN	2	1			2
MCLAREN VALE	11	1	1	2	1
MEADOWS	5	5	2	1	2
MELROSE PARK			1	3	3
MENINGIE		2		2	
MILE END	55	38	20	18	6
MIL-LEL		1			
MILLICENT	5	5	5	4	
MITCHELL PARK	41	57	45	24	2
MOANA	3	1	6		
MODBURY	49	15	35	46	23
MODBURY NORTH	14	5	13	2	2
MOONTA	1			3	4
MORGAN	1				
MORPHETT VALE	132	101	115	74	30
MORPHETTVILLE	1		1		
MOSELEY					1
MOUNT BARKER	29	2	14	34	20
MOUNT BURR	1			1	
MOUNT GAMBIER	30	38	28	24	17
MUNNO PARA	142	91	183	183	86
MURRAY BRIDGE	43	31	34	46	28
MURRAY BRIDGE EAST	19	23	10	13	6
NAILSWORTH	25	10	14	12	7
NANGWARRY	1	1	3	4	
NAPPERBY	2	11	11	11	4
NARACOORTE	16	16	16	16	2
NETLEY	3	12	11	26	7
NEWTON	68	54	76	60	27
NOARLUNGA CENTRE	36	20	15	27	16
NOARLUNGA DOWNS	13	16	18	14	4
NORMANVILLE	1				
NORTH ADELAIDE	5	2	3	7	4
NORTH BRIGHTON	14	10	10	28	18
NORTH SHIELDS		1			
NORTHFIELD			11	31	9
NORWOOD	9	16	12	12	8
NOVAR GARDENS	1				
NULLARBOR	2	3	4	1	
NURIOOTPA	38	34	33	37	21
O'HALLORAN HILL	39	14	27	47	23
OLD NOARLUNGA	45	9	16	24	20
OLD REYNELLA	101	95	107	84	53
PARA HILLS	130	64	67	53	17
PARA HILLS WEST	119	93	85	123	69
PARACHILNA			1		
PARADISE			7	23	8
PARAFIELD	30	13	14	22	15
PARAFIELD GARDENS	44	46	60	44	13
PARALOWIE	107	106	105	94	129
PARK HOLME	35	16	23	16	5

FUEL THEFT OFFENCES BY SUBURB					
SUBURB	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
PASADENA	12	11	4	12	3
PENFIELD			1		2
PENNESHAW		1			
PENNINGTON	7	1	1		2
PENOLA		1			
PENONG	3	1		1	1
PETERBOROUGH	1				2
PETERHEAD	63	45	27	7	2
PIMBA				3	
PINNAROO	2	1	3		2
PLYMPTON	120	52	41	37	10
POOCHERA	2			2	
POORAKA	131	110	124	99	36
PORT ADELAIDE	18	17	11	12	8
PORT AUGUSTA	31	29	47	46	33
PORT AUGUSTA WEST	6	13	6	4	1
PORT BROUGHTON	1				
PORT LINCOLN	12	13	9	18	23
PORT PIRIE	3		1	2	
PORT PIRIE SOUTH	4		3		1
PORT PIRIE WEST	1	1			
PORT WAKEFIELD	23	5	12	36	24
PROSPECT	29	45	41	28	36
QUEENSTOWN	3	1	1		2
REDHILL	2	2		2	
REDWOOD PARK		1			
RENMARK	11	2	13	19	3
RENMARK WEST				1	
REYNELLA	65	35	39	27	12
RICHMOND	31	7	9	16	4
RIDLEYTON	57	21	13	10	22
RISDON PARK	11	19	17	13	1
RIVERGLADES	2				
ROBE		1	1	2	
ROSE PARK	20	5	6	4	1
ROSETOWN	10	4	3	2	3
ROSEWATER	38	25	28	29	7
ROSEWORTHY	3	5	4	10	9
ROXBY DOWNS	3		4	2	1
SADDLEWORTH			1	1	1
SALISBURY	112	92	72	128	45
SALISBURY DOWNS	225	134	141	113	58
SALISBURY EAST	24	10	14	19	7
SALISBURY PARK	41	25	22	26	14
SALISBURY PLAIN			1		
SEACOMBE GARDENS	1				
SEAFORD	61	59	46	68	27
SEAFORD MEADOWS	17	7	7	17	3
SEAFORD RISE				1	
SEATON	8	20	40	33	35
SEAVIEW DOWNS	78	42	31	36	9
SHEIDOW PARK	30	39	64	76	25
SMITHFIELD	245	198	244	222	92

FUEL THEFT OFFENCES BY SUBURB					
SUBURB	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
SMITHFIELD PLAINS	59	30	33	41	25
SNOWTOWN		1		5	1
SOLOMONTOWN		1	2		
SOMERTON PARK	13	6	7	5	3
SOUTH PLYMPTON	14	18	17	18	3
SPALDING				1	
SPRINGTON	1				
ST AGNES	32	21	20	4	4
ST MARYS	73	99	104	110	64
ST PETERS	17	11	11	3	4
STEPNEY	43	28	26	18	13
STIRLING	18	15	10	8	9
STRATHALBYN	3	12	9	25	27
SURREY DOWNS	65	51	30	73	32
SUTTONTOWN			3	7	3
TAILEM BEND	37	25	23	34	25
TANTANOOLA			1	1	
TANUNDA	4	2			
TAPEROO				11	7
TEA TREE GULLY	6	2	2		
TEROWIE				1	
THEBARTON	9	5	13	6	7
THORNGATE	39	24	27	36	23
TINTINARA	5				
TORRENS PARK	15	5	3	14	2
TORRENSVILLE	6	4	2	5	3
TOTNESS	13	4	10	10	3
TRANMERE	78	45	13	3	5
TRINITY GARDENS	4	27	21	18	9
TRURO	4	3		1	2
TWO WELLS	17	14	7	8	7
UNDERDALE	48	23	29	23	12
UNLEY	33	24	35	32	12
VALE PARK	1				
VALLEY VIEW	34	34	37	27	9
VICTOR HARBOR	6	1	6	3	1
VIRGINIA	34	9	19	27	25
WAIKERIE	5	3	3	1	1
WALKERVILLE	57	22	24	46	11
WALLAROO		1	1	2	2
WARNERTOWN	2	2	2		
WAYVILLE	28	25	26	30	26
WELLAND	6	16	23	10	8
WEST BEACH	41	30	31	25	22
WEST CROYDON	64	13	30	45	57
WEST HINDMARSH	9	9	8	10	4
WEST LAKES	54	39	33	19	3
WEST RICHMOND	8	10	5	10	4
WESTBOURNE PARK	21	9	4	2	1
WHYALLA	8	10		5	2
WHYALLA NORRIE	11	7		4	4
WHYALLA PLAYFORD	3	1	2	1	
WHYALLA STUART	16	11	5	21	1

FUEL THEFT OFFENCES BY SUBURB					
SUBURB	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
WILLALOOKA			1		
WILLASTON	41	20	47	34	16
WILLIAM CREEK				1	
WILLUNGA	4	1	5	1	1
WINDSOR GARDENS	14	10	17	7	7
WINGFIELD	48	27	30	46	20
WOODCROFT	9		3		1
WOODSIDE	1	2	3	2	2
WOODVILLE	34	9	10	5	1
WOODVILLE GARDENS	24	4			
WOODVILLE NORTH	22	9	11	16	5
WOODVILLE PARK	58	22	26	34	25
WOODVILLE SOUTH	17	27	46	54	32
WOODVILLE WEST	78	40	56	31	23
WOOLSHEDS					1
WOOMERA	2	1			
WUDINNA	1			1	
WYNN VALE	10	7	5	4	2
YAMBA	2				
YANKALILLA	3		2		3

*up to 31/05/2023

In relation to this part of your request

"Any copies of general orders that outline how officers should deal with said thefts."

SA POLICE - FREEDOM OF INFORMATION UNIT SCHEDULE		
No.	Document Description	Status
1	Excerpt: General Order, Crime Reporting – pages 28-30	Part Release
JUSTIFICATION FOR PART RELEASE Out of Scope An excerpt of the General Order has been considered as the other parts of this document are outside the scope of your request. In assessing the overall structure of the document, I consider the document consists of standing orders relating to multiple different topics. Whilst the document does contain information relative to your application for access, I consider the remaining parts of the document to have no bearing on your application. The fact that the information you seek is contained in the document alongside other unrelated information is solely by virtue of the structure of the document. While the segments of the document are connected via a common theme; crime and occurrence reporting, I consider it appropriate that each heading be treated as a different entry, similar to a chapter of a book, or an entry of a diary. Without creating a new document, provision of an excerpt of the document in redacted form is the most efficient manner in which to provide the document. I therefore consider the information not marked as out of scope to be the only information within scope of your request.		

SA POLICE - FREEDOM OF INFORMATION UNIT SCHEDULE

JUSTIFICATION FOR PART RELEASE continued

Clause 4(2)(a)(iii), 4(2)(a)(iv) & 4(2)(b)

The redacted content identifies police methodology which would otherwise not be publicly known. Release of this information has the potential to prejudice the effectiveness of any lawful method or procedure for preventing, detecting, investigating or dealing with any contravention or possible contravention of the law. The information identifies investigative methodology which upon release would assist endeavours to evade police methods or practices and thereby reduce the ability for SAPOL to obtain evidence and subsequently investigate offences and protect the public.

Having decided that parts of the document are considered exempt, I must also be satisfied that access to that information would be contrary to the public interest as specified under Clause 4(2)(b). Whilst I am satisfied that access to the document would promote the objects of the FOI Act and be of interest to the community, the document itself is not relative to the applicant's own personal information. There would be a strong public interest in ensuring that SAPOL has the ability to obtain evidence and prevent, detect and investigate any contraventions of law in a manner which is not compromised or prejudiced in any way.

Upon balancing the public interest considerations, I have concluded that the ability for SAPOL to conduct its operations with regards to contraventions of law without compromise or prejudice far outweighs the public's interest in the information and therefore consider it exempt from disclosure.

CLAUSES FOR REFUSAL

Clause 4(2)(a)(iii) & 4(2)(a)(vi) of Schedule 1 of the FOI Act which states:

"A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to prejudice the effectiveness of any lawful method or procedure for preventing, detecting, investigating or dealing with any contravention or possible contravention of the law (including any revenue law); or to prejudice the maintenance or enforcement of any lawful method or procedure for protecting public safety;"

Clause 4(2)(b) of Schedule 1 of the FOI Act which states:

"A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the disclosure of which would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest."

Your rights to review

If you are dissatisfied with this determination, you are entitled to exercise your right of internal review in accordance with section 29(1) of the FOI Act by completing a PD362 Application for Internal Review form, which can be downloaded from <https://www.police.sa.gov.au/services-and-events/freedom-of-information> or available upon request at your nearest police station. Alternatively, an application may be made in writing to the SAPOL Freedom of Information Unit. This application must be lodged within 30 (calendar) days after you receive this letter with a fee of \$40.75, if applicable.

Disclosure Log

In accordance with the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, details of your FOI application, and the documents to which you are given access, will be published on the SAPOL website Disclosure Log. A copy of PC045 can be found at https://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/20818/PC045-Disclosure-Log-Policy.pdf. If you disagree with publication, please advise the undersigned in writing by **25 August 2023**.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senior Sergeant Kelly Johnson
Freedom of Information Unit
(Accredited Freedom of Information Officer)

25 July 2023