

1. What is your force policy regarding dealing with the offence of making off without payment from a petrol station? Please provide me with any policy or guidance document you hold on the topic, specifically when police action should be taken to assist a garage in recovering the money.

West Yorkshire Police does not have a specific policy in relation to this offence, however we provide specific guidance to our staff in relation to properly dealing with offences of make off without payment, specifically to assist our call centre (CCC) staff in asking the correct questions in order that the appropriate offence is identified and recorded. In summary, if the suspect draws fuel, enters the store and purchases items before paying for those items, the call taker will ask whether the suspect has been asked whether they have taken any fuel. If the question was asked, the offence made out is one of fraud by false representation. If the question was not asked, the offence is making off without payment. Where fuel is drawn and the offender simply drives off, the offence is make off without payment, however where this is done in a vehicle bearing false registration plates, the appropriate offence is theft - non specific. The appropriate crime record is then completed.

Where a garage report a make off, but the staff believe it was unintentional or accidental (due to there being no criminal intent) West Yorkshire Police do not record these in compliance with the National Crime recording standards, and instead direct the garage to the DVLA, who will provide the information required to enable the garage to identify the owner of the vehicle and recoup their losses.

2. How many reports of such an offence in 2012/2013 were made subject of a crime report?

3. How many persons were prosecuted for the offence?

All offences are investigated fully with a view to identifying the offender, or in some cases to allow the individual to pay for the fuel, if it can be shown there is/ was no criminal intent. Detecting offences of this kind is reliant on, in most cases, good quality CCTV to identify the offender or the registration number of the vehicle to identify the owner of the vehicle. If either of these are not available, in most cases, there are very few additional lines of enquiry. Where high volume retail locations are highlighted, crime prevention work and engagement with the particular retailer is undertaken to reduce these numbers.

Please see the table below which shows the number of crimes recorded in relation to petrol/diesel theft between 01/04/2012 and 31/03/2013, broken down by outcome.

Recorded crime	3455
- Charge / summons	111
- Caution	14
- TIC	143
- PND	1
- Community resolution	4
- Undetected	3174
- Ongoing	8

Please note these figures represent the number of crimes recorded during the period which:

- were not subsequently no-crimed
- had a property item of petrol/diesel linked as 'STOLEN' or 'TAKEN'
- were recorded as having been committed at a petrol station forecourt (including supermarkets).

Outcomes are based on those crimes recorded during the period

- Caution includes Caution, Conditional Caution, Reprimand and Final Warning
- Community Resolutions were not included as an outcome until April 2013

These figures may be subject to further investigation, reclassification and no-criming and will therefore change over time. Crime classifications based on Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counting-rules-for-recorded-crime>

4. How many offences were dealt with by NFA where the driver paid the debt to the victim?

It is not possible to provide the number of offences which were NFA due to the driver paying the garage, as this would require a manual search of 3,174 records and would take this request over the legislative time.