



# Bike Theft Statistics – Quarterly Update

The University of Edinburgh Transport & Parking Office

December 2025 – March 2026

## Introduction

This report summarises recent bike theft incidents at the University of Edinburgh, so that staff and students can understand the risks and scale of the problem.

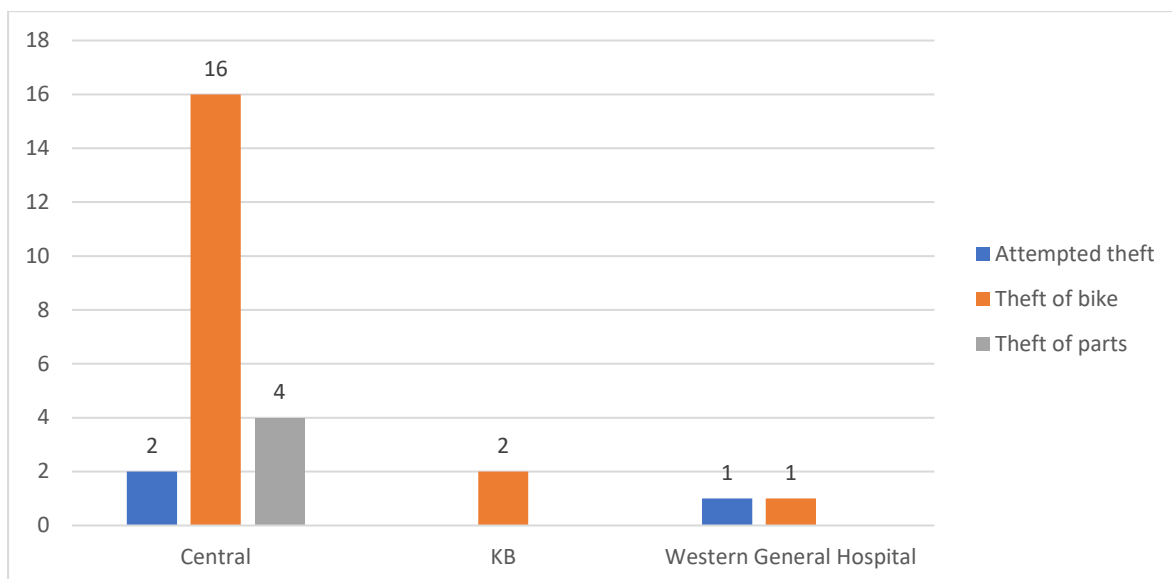
It is based on reported incidents submitted to the University’s Security section (covering incidents on the academic estate). This report covers the period from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026. New reports are published quarterly.

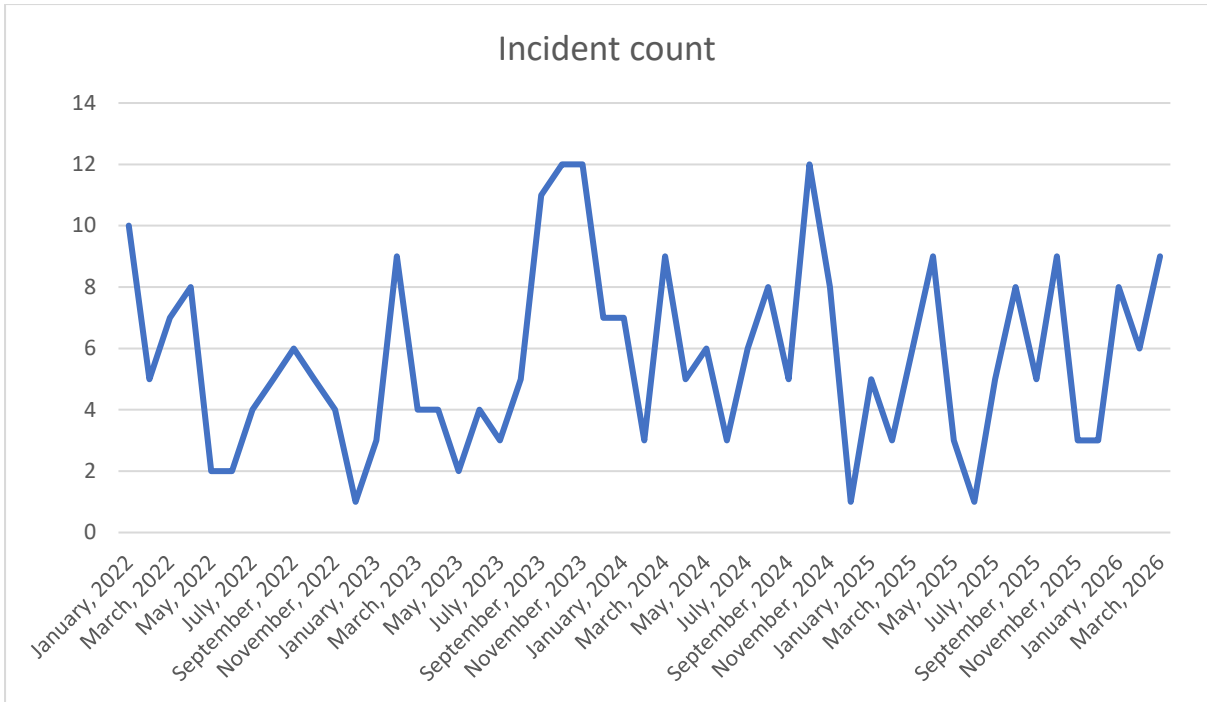
Note that these stats only cover incidents that are *reported* to the University, or those which are noticed by patrolling Security staff. It is therefore probable that there are more incidents taking place than those detailed here – this is especially the case for unsuccessful attempted thefts, which may take place without even being noticed, let alone reported.

**If you ever have a bike stolen, or observe a theft in progress or other suspicious behaviour on campus, please report it to University Security on 0131 650 2257 or [security@ed.ac.uk](mailto:security@ed.ac.uk).**

## Number and locations of incidents

In this period there have been 26 reported incidents, 19 of which were bike thefts. Consistent with previous reports, the majority of incidents (22) occurred in the Central Area. There were additionally two bike thefts at King’s Buildings, and one theft and one attempted theft at the Western General Hospital.



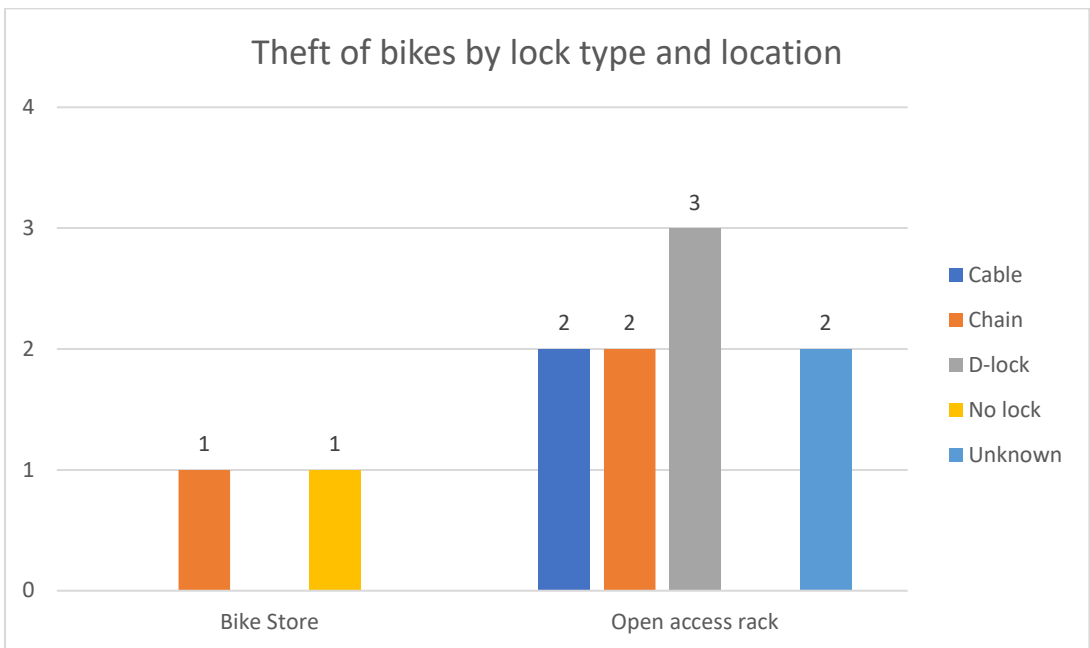


Looking at thefts over a longer time period, the number of incidents fluctuate from month to month. There does not appear to be any discernible trend or pattern to this, except perhaps that bike thefts are lower during summer and winter months, when fewer people are commuting to the campuses.

### Type of lock

This period saw a wider variety of locks targeted than previous reports. Historically cable locks have been the most common target for bike thieves. These locks are easily cut in mere seconds using either a battery powered angle grinder or cable cutters, and we strongly recommend against using them.

Consistent with previous reports, bikes secured to open-access racks are most frequently targeted.



## Type and value of bikes

The majority (11) of the bikes stolen in this period were normal pedal bikes, and 5 were eBikes. 3 bike theft reports did not record the type. There have also been several incidents of the control panels and batteries for e-Bikes being stolen. The average value of the stolen bikes (where known) was £1083, lower than the previous period.

## Other factors

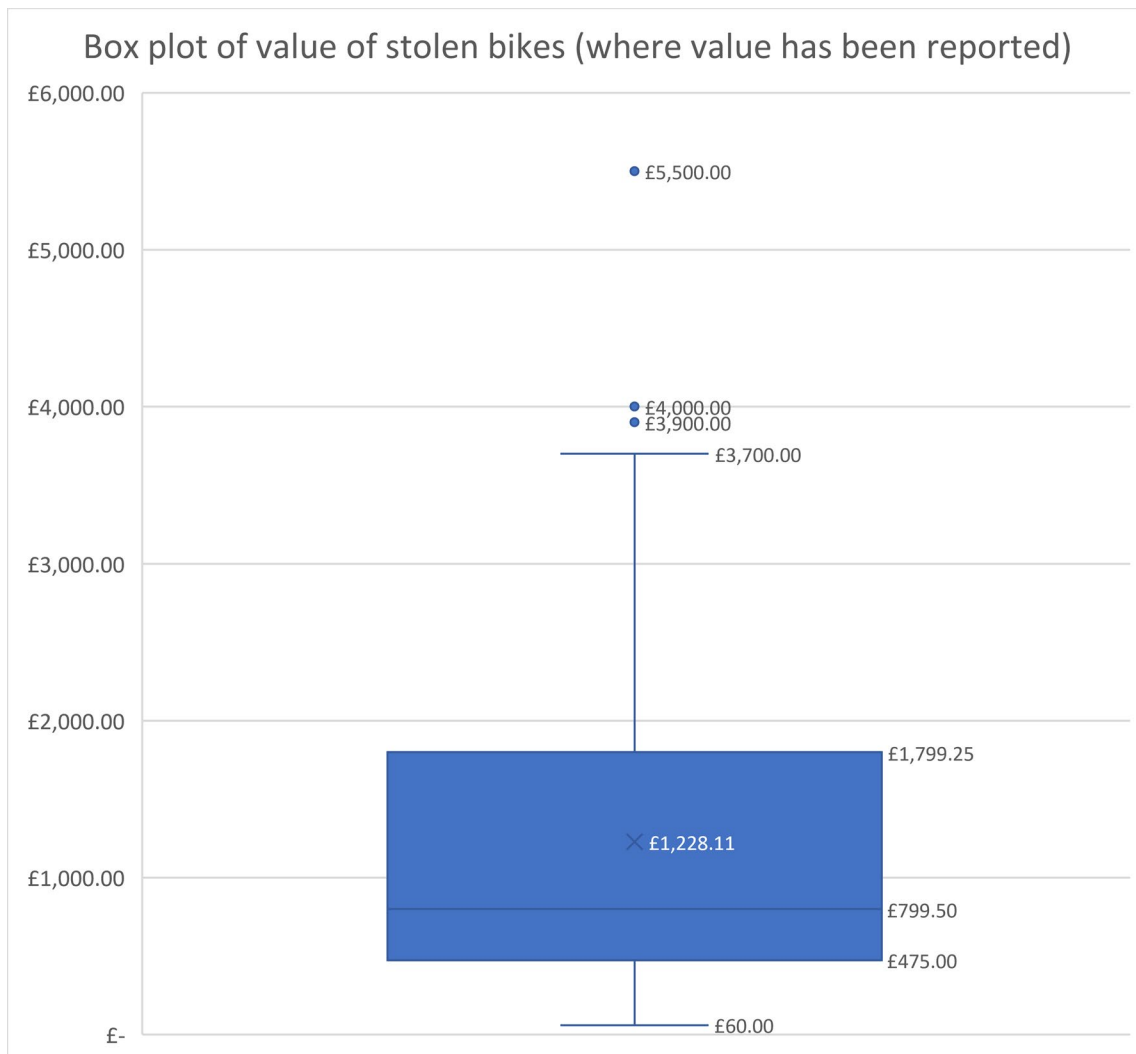
In 92% of incidents CCTV footage of the incident was obtained. CCTV footage is passed to Police Scotland at their request to assist with investigations whenever possible.

54% of incidents occurred during weekday daylight hours. This shows that bike thieves operate with brazenness in public areas. Your vigilance in reporting suspicious activity to University Security is needed and appreciated!

## The Bigger Picture

Since January 2022 we have recorded 294 incidents, of which 221 were bike thefts. Central Area continues to be the main incident hotspot.

The median value of all bikes stolen since these reports started is a relatively low £800. Occasionally high-value bikes are targeted, but the data set is skewed towards lower value bikes, as shown below.



The picture suggested by the above stats is that thieves are largely opportunistic: they are mostly targeting bikes in open public places, secured by cable locks which can be cut quickly. They are brazen, and not afraid to operate during the working day when campuses are busy.

## Protecting your bike

Edinburgh is renowned as a bike theft hotspot, and the rate of cycle theft is almost certainly an underestimate.

Bikes locked with cable locks are much more heavily targeted and easier to steal. You should invest in a good quality D-lock. Whilst these can still be cut through by a determined thief, they are more hassle and make your bike a less obvious target.

We have further advice on protecting your bike from theft on our website [here](#).