

5 Why's: Why is Shoplifting Increasing in the UK? (2024)

The rise of shoplifting in Retail

I have used the 5 Why's method to understand further in knowledge on why shoplifting has severely increased in 2024. By asking why, this can help me find the main cause of this issue.

1st Why: Why is shoplifting increasing?

A lot of people steal from shops due to inflation, money problems, drug uses or even some people get influenced by their own friends.

Some people think security won't stop them and nothing bad will happen, so they just keep shoplifting.

Police don't help as much to prevent shoplifting as they seem not interested.

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/jun/02/did-you-pay-for-that-what-is-driving-the-massive-rise-in-shoplifting>

2nd Why: Why do stores lack security measures?

New stores cannot afford to pay for advanced secure technology that tracks and records if people shoplift, which makes these stores easy to steal from.

A lot of stores either do not have staff that are trained enough to handle situations such as shoplifting, or are understaffed to proceed in training involving shoplifting making it harder to catch thieves.

Security training can be left behind if stores prioritise better customer service more as well as upgrading their online stores making it difficult to focus just on security.

<https://securityintelligence.com/why-is-the-retail-industry-still-lacking-security/>

3rd Why: Why do people see theft as a minor offence?

People see theft as a minor offence because they think it won't have as much consequences as bigger crimes.

Numerous people believe that theft is a way to get by due to financial struggles or because they suffer from poverty and it makes it easier for them as they are not harming anyone.

Tonglet, M. (1998)

4th Why: Why do some people shoplift when they can afford the items?

A lot of criminals can afford items however they steal so they can resell specific items like cosmetics, meat and other items to online shoppers or other shops.

Police do not do as much searching for criminals and that is why they continue stealing with no fear.

Many people have an addiction to stealing, so it can be difficult to stop if they are able to get drugs and alcohol with the money from items being sold.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/business/shops-buying-stolen-goods-from-professional-shoplifters-retail-groups-say-b2603885.html>

5th Why: Why do people steal?

Individuals steal because they have a desire for something they want or need but cannot have because of beliefs or money problems.

People are more likely to steal if not supervised or any security. They believe they can do it if they won't get caught.

Some people steal because they know that the retail staff are afraid of them and their aggression against them.

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/understanding-why-people-steal-sakerwala-cism-cpp-pci-psp->

As I have analysed my 5 why's, I have come to the conclusion on how to reduce shoplifting. To reduce shoplifting, if people would get better pay then they would not need to steal because of financial struggles. Also, majority of people who steal are drug users and homeless people, but by having supporting charities and better police response, there will be less shoplifting crimes.