



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_2023.0790

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 30/08/2023

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0790

On 07/08/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Under the FOI Act, please provide me with a list of theft offences recorded which include the word 'church' in the summary for 2022 and 2023 so far.

For each offence, provide the date, location, summary and outcome.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 s1, I can confirm that Gloucestershire Constabulary holds some relevant information.

Police Forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data. It should be noted that for these reasons the figures given relate to information from the specific recording system of Gloucestershire Constabulary and should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you receive.

Please note that our systems are designed to record information for policing purposes and the investigation of crime and not to extract statistical information. Accordingly whilst we endeavour to extract relevant data within the time limits of the Act, any data supplied is subject to these limitations.

A search has been conducted of the Crime Recording System for substantiated crimes recorded between 01/01/2022 and 31/07/2023 where the offence falls under the Home Office offence classification of Theft.

A filter has then been applied to the results to identify records where the MO Code of Church has been added to the record. This returned 41 records.

A second filter has then been applied to the original results to identify records where the word "church" appears in the free text MO section. This returned 26 records. The 2 sets of result have then been compared to identify records that have been included in both results, and the duplicate records have been removed from this response. 48 unique records have been identified as a result. A manual review of the combined result has then been carried out to remove any results that are not relevant to your request, for example where "church" forms part of a location but is not a church. This has reduced the number of relevant records to 43.

Please see the attached PDF for the details requested. Please note that redactions have been applied to the MO text where the information would identify an individual.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Gloucestershire Constabulary, when refusing to provide information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which: (a) states the fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

With regards to the redacted sections of the MO, the following exemption applies:

Section 40(2) Personal Information

Section 40(2) applies to third party personal data. This would not be released under the Freedom of Information Act unless there is a strong public interest. The disclosure of any information which could lead to the identification of an individual would breach the Data Protection Principles contained with the Data Protection Act 2018, namely the first principle which states that personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to individuals.

This exemption is absolute and class based therefore I am not required to apply either the public interest test or harm test in disclosure.

In accordance with the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this part of your request.

If you are not satisfied with this response or any actions taken in dealing with your request, you have the right to ask that we review your case under our internal procedure. Please note that a request for an internal review must be made within 20 working days of the response to your original request.

If you decide to request that such a review is undertaken and following this process you are still unsatisfied, you then have the right to direct your complaint to the Information Commissioner for consideration.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following means:

Website - <https://ico.org.uk/>

Call their helpline - 0303 123 1113

Email - casework@ico.org.uk

Post –

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer
Gloucestershire Constabulary

Month/ Year	Offence Group	Offence Category	Offence Classification	Outcome	Local Policing Area	MO Code	MO Text
Feb-22	Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	Theft - unclassified	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Gloucester LPA	CHURCH	VICTIM WAS AT A LOCATION WHEN SHE SAW AN UNKNOWN MALE TAKE HER COAT. THE COAT WAS ON A RAILING. THE MALE INSISTED THAT THE COAT WAS HIS AND LEFT WITH IT
Feb-22	Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	Theft - unclassified	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Stroud LPA	CHURCH	VICTIM HAS LEFT HIS JACKET NEAR THE FRONT ENTRANCE OF LOCATION WITH OPEN FRONT DOOR. SUSPECT HAS TAKEN JACKET, WHICH CONTAINED VICTIMS VEHICLE KEYS AND HOUSE KEYS. SUSPECT HAS THEN USED STOLEN KEYS TO OPEN VICTIMS VEHICLE, HAS SEARCHED THE GLOVE BOX AND THEN LEFT WITHOUT TAKING ANYTHING FROM VEHICLE.
Feb-22	Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	Theft - unclassified	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Gloucester LPA	CHURCH	THE WITNESS MET AN UNKNOWN MALE, WHO WAS A HOMELESS PERSON, OUTSIDE THE LOCATION. THE WITNESS BROUGHT THE SUSPECT INTO THE LOCATION TO GET A COFFEE. THE VICTIM WAS A STAFF MEMBER AND WAS NOT ABLE TO MAKE THE MALE A COFFEE AND SO GAVE THE MALE AND WITNESS £10 TO GO AN BUY A DRINK ON THE AGREEMENT THAT THE WITNESS WOULD RETURN WITH THE CHANGE. THE MALE TOOK THE £10 AND RAN FROM THE LOCATION AND DID NOT RETURN.
Mar-22	Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	Theft - unclassified	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Stroud LPA	CHURCH	OFFENDER HAS ENTERED THE CHURCH PORCH AREA AND HAS STOLEN THE VICTIM'S PURSE FROM HER HANDBAG WHICH HAD BEEN LEFT THERE WHILST SHE CLEANED THE CHURCH. CARDS AND CASH STOLEN TO THE VALUE OF £35.00.
Apr-22	Theft	Theft of pedal cycle	Theft of p/cycle	Det Charge / Summons	Gloucester LPA	CHURCH	THE VICTIM HAS LEFT HIS BIKE ON THE BIKE RACKS AT THE OFFENCE LOCATION, UNSURE IF THE BIKE WAS SECURED, AND ON HIS RETURN FOUND THE BIKE HAS BEEN TAKEN.
Apr-22	Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	Theft - unclassified	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Gloucester LPA	CHURCH	UNKNOWN OFFENDER HAS STOLEN PAVING BRICKS FROM PATH LEADING UP TO CHURCH
Apr-22	Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	Theft - unclassified	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Gloucester LPA	CHURCH	VICTIM HAS ATTENDED A ██████████ GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL. VICTIM HAS PLACED HIS RUCKSACK, ██████████, TO THE FRONT OF THE CATHEDRAL AND HAS LEFT IT UNATTENDED WHILST TAKING DRINKS AT A NEARBY BENCH. ON RETURN TO WHERE HE HAD PLACED HIS RUCKSACK IT WAS NO LONGER PRESENT.

May-22	Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	Theft - unclassified	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Forest LPA	CHURCH	UNKNOWN SUSPECT(S) HAS ENTERED THE CHURCH AND COMMITTED THEFT BY TAKING A MIXER AMPLIFIER WITHOUT CONSENT. THE UNKNOWN SUSPECT(S) GAINED ACCESS TO A SMALL CUPBOARD INSIDE THE CHURCH WHICH WAS THOUGHT TO BE LOCKED, BUT WHEN CHECKED LATER ON BY THE COMPLAINER THEY REALISED IT CAN BE OPEN EVEN WHEN LOCKED. THE CHURCH IS AN OPEN AREA FOR PEOPLE TO GATHER FREELY WITHIN A FIXED TIME PERIOD, THERE WAS NO SIGN OF FORCED ENTRY AND IMPLIED ACCESS DUE TO THE CHURCH BEING OPEN.
May-22	Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	Theft - unclassified	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Stroud LPA	CHURCH	UNIDENTIFIED SUSPECT HAS STOLEN COMPUTER FROM VICTIM'S PEDAL CYCLE, VALUED AT £50.00.
Jun-22	Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	Theft - unclassified	IP Supports - Suspect Identified	Gloucester LPA	CHURCH	SUSPECT HAS ENTERED THE CATHEDRAL AND PICKED UP A COLLECTION BOX FULL OF MONEY, THE SUSPECT FOUND THIS BOX TO BE VEY HEAVY AND STRUGGLED WITH IT BEFOR WALKING TOWARDS THE EXIT. THE VICTIM THAN SAW THE SUSPECT, IN WHICH THE SUSPECT LEFT THE CATHEDRAL EMPTY HANDED.
Jul-22	Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	Theft - unclassified	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Stroud LPA	CHURCH	A STRIP OF LEAD FLASHING HAS BEEN REMOVED AND STOLEN FROM THE TOP OF A SHED ADJOINING THE CHURCH BY UNIDENTIFIED SUSPECT(S).
Aug-22	Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	Theft - unclassified	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Cotswolds LPA	CHURCH	UNKNOWN SUSPECT HAS APPROACHED THE DONATIONS BOX AND BROKEN INTO WITHIN THE CHURCH. DAMAGE WAS MADE TO THE BOX.
Sep-22	Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	Theft - unclassified	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Stroud LPA	CHURCH	UNKNOWN SUSPECT(S) HAVE TRIED TO STRIP THE LEAD FROM THE CHURCH ROOF IN ORDER TO STEAL IT. THE ALARM WAS TRIGGERED AND SUSPECTS LEFT WITHOUT TAKING ANY LEAD.
Sep-22	Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	Theft - unclassified	Restorative Disposal Level 1	Forest LPA	CHURCH	UNKNOWN SUSPECT/ SUSPECTS HAVE STOLEN THE UNION JACK FLAG AND ROPE FROM THE FLAG POLE AT THE CHURCH.
Sep-22	Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	Theft - unclassified	Restorative Disposal Level 1	Stroud LPA	CHURCH	SUSPECTS HAVE STOLEN THE WHEELCHAIR BELONG TO THE CHURCH
Oct-22	Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	Theft - unclassified	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Unallocated LPA	CHURCH	SUSPECT HAS TAKEN VICTIMS PROPERTY WHICH AD BEEN LEFT IN THE CHURCH
Oct-22	Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	Theft - unclassified	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Cotswolds LPA	CHURCH	UNKNOWN SUSPECT HAS STOLEN OIL FROM OIL TANK, BY UNKNOWN MEANS.

Oct-22	Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	Theft - unclassified	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Cheltenham LPA	CHURCH	SUSPECT HAS BROKEN THE LOCK TO THE CUPBOARD DOOR IN THE MAIN HALL AND STOLEN SOME CASH FROM WITHIN.
Oct-22	Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	Theft - unclassified	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Unallocated LPA	CHURCH	THE VICTIM HAS BEEN AT CHURCH [REDACTED] AT LUNCH TIME SHE HAS LEFT HER MOBILE PHONE INSIDE HER BRIEF CASE AND ON A CHAIR WHILST SHE HAS GONE OUTSIDE TO GET A DRINK. THE CHURCH WAS OPEN AND THERE WERE MANY PEOPLE [REDACTED] STILL THERE. APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES LATER THE VICTIM HAS RETURNED TO HER BRIEF CASE AND FOUND THAT HER MOBILE PHONE WAS MISSING.
Oct-22	Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	Theft - unclassified	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Stroud LPA	CHURCH	SUSPECTS HAVE ENTERED THE INSECURE CHURCH BY IMPLIED CONSENT AND TAKEN A HIGH VALUE EMBROIDERED KNEELER, DISCARDING IT IN THE CHURCHYARD. THE SUSPECTS HAVE ALSO DISARRANGED MOVEABLE OBJECTS IN THE CHURCH, AND CHALKED AN UNKNOWN MESSAGE ON THE FLOOR. MOST RECENTLY, THE SUSPECTS HAVE ALSO DAMAGED A PORTABLE WC THAT WAS PLACED IN THE YARD OF THE CHURCH.
Oct-22	Theft	Theft of pedal cycle	Theft of p/cycle	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Cheltenham LPA	CHURCH	VICTIM HAS LEFT HIS PEDAL CYCLE LOCKED IN A BIKE RACK. THE SUSPECT HAS CUT THROUGH THE LOCK AND TAKEN THE PEDAL CYCLE.
Nov-22	Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	Theft - unclassified	IP Supports - Suspect Identified	Unallocated LPA	CHURCH	SUSPECT HAS ATTENDED THE LOCATION AND ASKED FOR SOME CLOTHES. THE VICTIM TOLD HIM THEY HAD NONE. A SHORT WHILE LATER, THE SUSPECT HAD BEEN SEEN RUMMAGING IN A BAG, TAKING A TABLECLOTH.
Dec-22	Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	Theft - unclassified	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Unallocated LPA	CHURCH	THE COMPAINER [REDACTED] HAS REPORTED THAT SUSPECT HAS ENTERED THE CHURCH (WHICH IS NOT LOCKED DURING THE DAY) AND FORCED OPEN THE COLLECTION BOX AND TAKEN THE CONTENTS.
Dec-22	Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	Theft - unclassified	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Stroud LPA	CHURCH	SUSPECTS HAVE TAKEN A LARGE AMOUNT OF COPING STONES AND CTSWOLD WALLING STONE FROM FROM PERIMETER OF CHURCH WEST WALL. A 4 WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLE WAS SEEN LEAVING THE SCENE BY A NUMBER OF THE PUBLIC.
Jan-23	Theft	Theft of pedal cycle	Theft of p/cycle	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Cheltenham LPA	CHURCH	VICTIM SECURED HIS BIKE TO A POST, SUSPECT HAS STOLEN VICTIMS CUBE MOUNTAIN BIKE LOCK ALSO STOLEN.
Jan-23	Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	Theft - unclassified	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Forest LPA	CHURCH	SUSPECT(S) HAVE ENTERED INSECURE CHURCHYARD AND USED AN UNKNOWN IMPLEMENT TO CUT OR SAW THROUGH THE RETAINING BOLTS BEFORE STEALING THE BENCH FROM THE CONCRETE BASE
Feb-23	Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	Theft from public places	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Cheltenham LPA	CHURCH	A SMALL FLOWER BED HAS BEEN VANDALISED AND A BIG ALPHA BANNER IS MISSING. BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN RIPPED FROM THE POLE.

Mar-23	Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	Theft - unclassified	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Unallocated LPA	CHURCH	UNKNOWN PERONS HAVE STOLEN LEAD (50FT X 6FT) FROM THE ROOF AT THE CRIME LOCATION. DAMAGE HAS ALO BEEN CAUSED TO ROOF TILE, THE MAIN SAIL AND PORCH IT IS BELIEVED A CROWBAR, WHEELIE BIN AND WHEELBARROW HAVE BEEN USED DURING THE CRIME.
Mar-23	Theft	Theft of pedal cycle	Theft of p/cycle	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Cheltenham LPA	CHURCH	SUSPECT HAS STOLEN PEDAL CYCLE BELONGING TO THE VICTIM WHICH HAD BEEN LEFT AT THE LOCATION UNLOCKED AND INSECURE.
Mar-23	Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	Theft - unclassified	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Tewkesbury LPA	CHURCH	SUSPECT HAS STOLEN £250 FROM VICTIMS ██████████ COAT, VICTIM IS UNSURE WHETHER THE THEFT OCCURRED WHILST HE HUNG HIS COAT ██████████ AT THE CHURCH OR WHEN HE LEFT HIS COAT UNATTENDED ON THE BUS.
May-23	Theft	Theft of pedal cycle	Theft of p/cycle	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Gloucester LPA	CHURCH	VICTIM HAD LEFT HIS PEDAL CYCLE OUTSIDE THE LOCATION. SUSPECT HAS STOLEN THE VICTIMS PEDAL CYCLE BY TAKING IT WHILE VICTIM WASN'T THERE.
May-23	Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	Theft - unclassified	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Gloucester LPA	CHURCH	SUSPECT HAS STOLEN THE VICTIM'S PURSE FROM INSIDE OF HER BAG WHILE SHE WAS SITTING ON A BENCH.
May-23	Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	Theft - unclassified	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Stroud LPA	CHURCH	UNKNOWN SUSPECT/S HAVE STOLEN A PORTABLE ELECTRIC CONCRETE MIXER THAT HAD BEEN LEFT AT THE LOCATION AND SECURED WITH A PADLOCK AND CHAIN. THE SUSPECT/S HAVE CUT THE PADLOCK OFF BY UNKNOWN MEANS.
Jun-23	Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	Theft - unclassified	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Stroud LPA	CHURCH	UNKNOWN SUSPECT ENTERED THE CHURCH THEN INTO THE SANCTUARY WHERE THE WAS AN ART EXHIBITION. SUSPECT HAS THEN STOLEN THE VICTIM'S BAG, WHICH HAD BEEN LEFT NEAR THE DOOR.
Jun-23	Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	Theft - unclassified	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Cheltenham LPA	CHURCH	SUSPECT HAS STOLEN THE PRIDE FLAGS WHICH WERE SITUATED AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE CHURCH LAST WEEK. THESE WERE REPLACED BY THE VICTIM AND TODAY THE SUSPECT HAS TORN DOWN THE FLAGS LEAVING RIPS IN THE FLAG CAUSING DAMAGE.
Jul-23	Theft	Theft of pedal cycle	Theft of p/cycle	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Cheltenham LPA	CHURCH	VICTIM LEFT TWO BIKES LOCKED TO EACHOTHER. SUSPECT CUT THE LOCK WITH A BOLT CUTTER AND STOLE BOTH BIKES, DISCARDING THE LOCK.
Jul-23	Theft	Theft of pedal cycle	Theft of p/cycle	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Cotswolds LPA	CHURCH	VICTIM LEFT HER ELECTRIC BIKE, ██████████ CHAINED UP AT THE RAILINGS OUTSIDE THE CHURCH. THE SUSPECT HAS FORCED THE LOCK ON THE BIKE AND STOLEN IT.
Jul-23	Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	Theft - unclassified	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Stroud LPA	CHURCH	SUSPECT HAS STOLEN THE VICTIM'S ██████████ HANDBAG FROM THE FLOOR NEAR TO WHERE THE VICTIM WAS PLAYING THE CHURCH ORGAN.

Jul-23	Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	Theft - unclassified	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Gloucester LPA	CHURCH	VICTIM HAS LEFT HER HANDBAG ON THE STAIRS OUTSIDE THE A/L. SHE HAS ENTERED THE PROPERTY AND GONE UPSTAIRS, BEFORE REALISING SHE HAD LEFT HER HANDBAG. SHE HAS FOUND THE HANDBAG IN A BUSH. £20, HER ELECTRIC CARD AND DRIVING LICENSE WERE MISSING.
Jul-23	Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	Theft - unclassified	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Gloucester LPA	CHURCH	SUSPECT HAS TAKEN THE PADLOCK FROM THE MIDDLE BOLLARD OUTSIDE OF THE CRIME LOCATION
Jul-23	Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	Theft - unclassified	Undetected	Stroud LPA	CHURCH	VICTIM HAS BEEN AT THE LOCATION CARRYING OUT BUILDING WORK. HE HAS HUNG HIS JACKET [REDACTED]. THE SUSPECT HAS ENTERED ADDRESS AND BEEN ALLOWED TO USE THE TOILETS. VICTIM HAS THEN REALISED LATER ON HIS WALLET AND KEYS WERE MISSING FROM THE JACKET. APPROXIMATE VALUE OF THEFT £140.
Jun-22	Theft	Theft of pedal cycle	Theft of p/cycle	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Cheltenham LPA		VICTIM LEFT BIKE LOCKED AND SECURE OUTSIDE THE CHURCH. SUSPECT STOLE THE BIKE TOGETHER WITH THE LOCK. TOTAL VALUE IS £670.00.
Nov-22	Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	Theft - unclassified	Investigation Complete - No Suspect	Cotswolds LPA		VICTIM WAS DRINKING HIS COFFEE OUTSIDE THE CHURCH WHEN HE REALISED HIS MOBILE PHONE WAS MISSING. SUSPECT NOT SEEN.