



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_23_1031

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 14/11/2023

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.1031

On 20/10/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide me with full answers to the following questions:

1. How many offences of shoplifting/theft from shops has your force recorded in each month of 2022 and 2023 to date?
2. Please break these down by category of item stolen in each month ie groceries 250 / electrical 100 / jewellery 25
3. If you record the value of items stolen, please list the top five highest value thefts
4. If possible please list the top five retailers where the offences took place in each year ie Tesco 1000 / Aldi 750
5. How old was the a) youngest and b) oldest suspect your force arrested or otherwise dealt with in regard to shoplifting
6. For each of 2022 and 2023 to date, please provide a breakdown of outcomes for shoplifting ie 300 charged / 25 cautioned / 10 PND

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.

I can confirm that a search has been conducted of crimes recorded from 01/01/2022 to 30/09/2023 whereby the offence recorded was 46 – Theft from shops and stalls.

1. Please see the table below for a breakdown of the above search results by month.

2022	2022	2023
Jan	220	281
Feb	191	320
Mar	220	285
Apr	257	302
May	253	347
Jun	254	318
Jul	248	409
Aug	252	377
Sep	242	387
Oct	280	
Nov	263	
Dec	211	

2. & 3. The Constabulary does not routinely record property items that do not have a unique identifier and of those recorded only approximate values are recorded. Of the above 5,917 recorded above, only 290 property items have been recorded. They include the following:

Property category	No. of items recorded
Cars and vans	6
armour antique	1
audio video dvd disc	1
Audio	3
baggage	1
battery	2
bedding / soft furnishing / linen	3
bicycle	2
building fitting fixture plumbing other	1
Clothing	12
confectionary	2
cosmetics / toiletries	16

cycle accessory lamp	1
decorating & diy material	8
Domestic Item	8
Drink alcoholic	68
Drink non-alcoholic	2
electric scooter	1
eyewear/equipment spectacles / sunglasses	8
floor covering rug / mat	1
Foodstuffs	19
fuel / power petrol	1
garden	4
garden not tool	1
gift token	1
Hand tool	27
jewellery ring	8
lamp	1
lock / padlock	1
Machinery & plant	6
Medical	2
miscellaneous storage	1
Office / comms	19
ornament / utensil other	1
other	11
photographic lens	1
publication magazine	1
Sport & leisure	3
tobacco / smoking	13
toy / game	16
vehicle accessory part	2
watch watch	4
Total	290

4. The table below lists the retailers for the 5 highest number of shoplifting offences recorded in each year:

2023

Retailer	No. of crimes recorded
Asda	74
B&M Bargains	61
Tesco Express	60
Greggs Bakery	57
John Lewis & Partners	52

2022

Retailer	No. of crimes recorded
B&M Home Store	79
TK Maxx	65
Boots the Chemists	60
Tesco Express	57
John Lewis & Partners	50

5. Of the suspects/offenders recorded against the above crimes, the youngest was recorded as 10 years old and the oldest as 80 years old.
6. The Police outcomes recorded for the above crimes are as follows:

Police Outcomes	2022	2023	Total
Investigation complete - no suspect identified	1538	1703	3241
Charged/Summoned	414	341	755
Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	381	263	644
Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	333	235	568
Out of court (informal)	71	114	185
Taken into consideration	53	194	247
Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	45	11	56
Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest (police decision)	15	4	19
Investigation ongoing	15	152	167
Out of court (formal)	14	6	20
Action undertaken by another body/agency	6	1	7
UNKNOWN	6	2	8
Total	2891	3026	5917

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