



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI\_24\_0081

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 14/02/2024

Dear

**Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI\_24\_0081**

On 18/01/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. Please provide the number of reported incidents of theft where the stolen item was listed as a tool, power tool, or similar, for each of the following financial years: 2018/19 2019/20, 2020/21 2021/22, 2022/23
2. Please provide the number of times police attended in person a reported incident of 'tool theft' (see question 1.) and the outcomes for the reported incidents (including number of people arrested and charged) for the financial years: 2018/19 2019/20, 2020/21 2021/22, 2022/23
3. Please provide the number of reported incidents of theft from vans or light commercial vehicles - where the stolen item was listed as a tool, power tool, or similar, for each of the financial years: 2018/19 2019/20, 2020/21 2021/22, 2022/23
4. Please provide the number of times police attended in person a reported incident of 'tool theft from vans' (see question 3.) and the outcomes for the reported incidents (including number of people arrested and charged) in the cases of tool theft from vans/ light commercial vehicles for the financial years: 2018/19 2019/20, 2020/21 2021/22, 2022/23

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

Unfortunately, it's not possible to electronically search for all the information you have requested.

Although it's possible to retrieve the number of Theft from Vehicle crimes recorded for questions 3 and 4, unfortunately there is no specific field relating to the vehicle the items

were stolen from. As such, in order to ascertain the number that specifically involved vans as the focus of the theft from vehicle would involve manually reviewing all theft from vehicle offences that had tools recorded as stolen. Given that the Constabulary recorded 703 such crimes, it would take longer than the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 17(5) 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.

In relation to your request Section 12 applies.

Section 12(1) – Fee Regulations states:

Section 1(1) of the Act does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. (As detailed in the Data Protection and Freedom of Information Fees Regulations of 2004)

The appropriate limit at the moment is £450 calculated at an hourly rate of £25 per hour for all staff time incurred in:

- i. Determining whether information is held
- ii. Locating it
- iii. Retrieving it
- iv. Extracting the information to be disclosed from the other information.

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

### **Providing Information Outside of the Act**

By way of assistance and although excess cost removes the Force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, I can provide the following information relevant to your request which has already been retrieved. We trust this is helpful but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

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 01/04/2018 to 31/03/2023 whereby any property item starting with the category of 'tool' was recorded as stolen. A further search has then been carried out from the linked incident data (separate

system that records the initial report of the incident) to ascertain if a police officer attended the incident.

The results are as follows:

| Financial Year | No. of Crimes | No. of Crimes attended |
|----------------|---------------|------------------------|
| 2018/19        | 873           | 161                    |
| 2019/20        | 482           | 99                     |
| 2020/21        | 137           | 38                     |
| 2021/22        | 106           | 13                     |
| 2022/23        | 45            | 10                     |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>1643</b>   | <b>321</b>             |

#### Police Outcomes of crimes recorded:

| Financial Year                                                                               | 2018/19    | 2019/20    | 2020/21    | 2021/22    | 2022/23   | Total       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| 1 - Charged/Summons                                                                          | 17         | 12         | 3          | 1          | 2         | 35          |
| 10 - Not in public interest (Police)                                                         | 1          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0         | 1           |
| 14 - Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action | 9          | 2          | 1          | 4          | 0         | 16          |
| 15 - Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim supports action                     | 22         | 12         | 5          | 2          | 2         | 43          |
| 16 - Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support further action     | 12         | 7          | 6          | 2          | 0         | 27          |
| 18 - Investigation complete: no suspect identified                                           | 804        | 445        | 120        | 97         | 39        | 1505        |
| 21 - Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest               | 3          | 4          | 2          | 0          | 0         | 9           |
| 3 - Adult Caution                                                                            | 1          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0         | 1           |
| 4 - Taken into consideration                                                                 | 1          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0         | 1           |
| 8 - Community Resolution                                                                     | 3          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0         | 3           |
| Unknown                                                                                      | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 2         | 2           |
| <b>Total Crimes</b>                                                                          | <b>873</b> | <b>482</b> | <b>137</b> | <b>106</b> | <b>45</b> | <b>1643</b> |

Please note that the above figures are reliant on an incident reference being included on the Crime record. The data is also limited by the fact that property items from theft offences are only recorded as a specific item if there is a unique identifier. Therefore there could have potentially been other relevant crimes recorded but if the tools had no identifying markers, the specific property items may not have been recorded.

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](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)

Post –

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

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer  
Gloucestershire Constabulary