



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_24_0107

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 21/02/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0107

On 25/01/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1) Please can you state for theft offences recorded by your force, the number in which the crime report text (described as modus operandi reports by many forces) contains a mention of "handbag" in each of the following calendar years:

- i) 2019
- ii) 2020
- iii) 2021
- iv) 2022
- v) 2023

2) Please can you provide a redacted copy of the free text crime reports for these offences recorded by your force between October and December 2023.

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.

Q1.

A search has been conducted of the Crime Recording System to identify substantiated crimes recorded between 01/01/2019 and 31/12/2023 where the offence falls under the Home Office Offence Group of Theft. A filter was then applied to the MO freetext to identify all records containing the word "handbag". This has returned a total of 862 records. The table below provides a breakdown of the results by year and offence.

Offence	Year					Total
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Other theft/unauth taking	154	63	48	81	64	410
Shoplifting	59	61	32	38	68	258
Theft by employee	1	1	0	1	0	3
Theft from the person of another	58	16	23	28	24	149
Theft in a dwelling	12	12	2	5	10	41
Theft making off without payment	1	0	0	0	0	1
Grand Total	285	153	105	153	166	862

Q2.

Please see the attached document. Please note that redactions have been applied where necessary. This information is exempt by virtue of Section 45(2) of the Act.

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 disclosure of any data that may identify an individual, 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 within 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

mo_text

THE SUSPECT HAS ENTERED THE STORE AND TAKEN A HANDBAG FROM THE DISPLAY SHELF CONCEALING IT IN A CARRIER BAG. THE SUSPECT HAS THEN LEFT THE STORE MAKING NO ATTEMPT TO PAY FOR THE HANDBAG.

THE SUSPECT HAS ENTERED THE STORE AND MADE THEIR WAY TO THE HANDBAG SECTION. THEY HAVE SELECTED THREE HANDBAGS AND CONCEALED THEM IN A CANVAS BAG. THEY HAVE THEN SPENT A FEW MINUTES LOOKING AT OTHER ITEMS AND HAVE THEN SELECTED TWO MORE HANDBAGS AND HAVE RAN OUT OF THE STORE MAKING NO ATTEMPT TO PAY FOR THE FIVE HANDBAGS AND SETTING OFF THE STORE ALARMS.

VICTIM HAS LEFT HER HANDBAG WITH THE SUSPECT AT THIS LOCATION. WHEN THE VICTIM CAME BACK THE HANDBAG WAS MISSING. VICTIM BELIEVES THE SUSPECT HAS STOLEN THE VICTIMS HANDBAG.

[REDACTED] VICTIM HAS NOTICED THAT £40 HAD GONE MISSING AND NOW A FURTHER £40 A COUPLE OF DAYS LATER. THE MONEY WAS IN THE VICTIMS PURSE, IN HER HANDBAG, IN HER ROOM.

SUSPECT HAS TAKEN PURSE FROM VICTIMS HANDBAG AND MADE OFF

SUSPECT HAS TAKEN PURSE FROM VICTIMS HANDBAG. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

SUSPECT HAS WALKED INTO THE STORE, PUT A BAG OF CRISPS IN HER HANDBAG, THEN LEFT MAKING NO ATTEMPTS OR OFFERING PAYMENT

[REDACTED] SUSPECT HAS STOLEN THE VICTIMS HANDBAG WITHOUT THE VICTIMS KNOWLEDGE AND PERMISSION.
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

UNKNOWN SUSPECT HAS RIDDEN UP TO THE STORE AND THEN ENTERED AND TAKEN THREE HANDBAGS AND THEN LEFT THE STORE WITHOUT MAKING AN ATTEMPT TO PAY FOR THE ITEMS. HE HAS THEN LEFT THE AREA ON THE BIKE

REPEAT SUSPECT HAS ENTERED THE STORE, GRABED 3 HANDBAGS AND HAS RAN OUT OF THE STORE WITH NO ATTEMPT TO PAY FOR GOODS. APPROX £120

WHILST THE VICTIM WAS SHOPPING SHE HAS HAD HER HANDBAG WITH HER OVER HER SHOULDER BUT AT THE TIME THE BAG WAS ONE WITH HER MOBILE PHONE ON VIEW. DURING HER 30 MINUTE TIME IN THE STORE THE PHONE HAS BEEN LIFTED FROM HER BAG, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE SUSPECT HAS MADE THEIR WAY DOWN THE HEALTH AND BEAUTY AISLE AND FILLED THEIR HANDBAG WITH ITEMS FROM THE STORE DISPLAY SHELVES. THE SUSPECT HAS THEN LEFT THE STORE MAKING NO ATTEMPT TO PAY FOR THE ITEMS IN THEIR HANDBAG.

HAS NOTICED THAT HER BANK CARD AND CASH WERE MISSING FROM HER HANDBAG.

THE SUSPECT HAS ENTERED THE CRIME LOCATION. THE SUSPECT THEN SELECTED A SMALL HANDBAG AND CONCEALED IT [REDACTED] THE SUSPECT THEN ASKED A MEMBER OF STAFF TO SHOW HIM THE HANDBAGS. THE SUSPECT HAS THEN TAKEN ANOTHER HANDBAG [REDACTED] THE SUSPECT HAS THEN EXITED THE CRIME LOCATION WITHOUT MAKING AN ATTEMPT TO MAKE PAYMENT.

THE FEMALE SUSPECT HAS ENTERED THE STORE AND FILLED HER HANDBAG UP WITH ITEMS OF STOCK. SUSPECT HAS THEN WALKED OUT OF THE STORE [REDACTED]

SUSPECT HAS ENTERED THE STORE SELECTED 3 HANDBAGS WHICH HAD SECURITY TAGS FROM NEAR THE FRONT OF THE STORE LEFT STORE MAKING NO ATTEMPT TO PAY SETTING OFF THE ALARM.

THE VICTIM HAS MADE CONTACT WITH POLICE AND STATED THAT SHE HAD BEEN ROBBED, IT WAS LATER IDENTIFIED THAT SHE HAD LEFT HER HANDBAG IN THE LOCAL PUB AND BELEIVED IT AND BEEN STOLEN.

SUSPECT ENTERED THE STORE PROCEEDED TO THE HEALTH AND BEAUTY AISLE AND FILLED HER HANDBAG WITH £291.45 OF GOODS LEFT STORE MAKING NO ATTEMPT TO PAY.

SUSPECT HAS STOLEN [REDACTED] FROM HER HANDBAG.

SUSPECT HAS ENTERED STORE [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] SELECTED A HANDBAG VALUED AT £79.99. SUSPECT HAS THEN LEFT STORE WITH
ITEMS WITHOUT MAKING ANY ATTEMPT TO PAY.

KNOWN OFFENDER HAS ENTERED THE STORE AT STATED TIME AND GONE TO HANDBAG SECTION AND
SELECTED 3 HANDBAGS AND LEFT THE STORE WITHOUT ATTEMPTING TO PAY FOR THE ITEMS. [REDACTED]

THE SUSPECT HAS ENTERED THE STORE AND SELECTED A HANDBAG. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] THE SUSPECT HAS THEN LEFT THE STORE WITHOUT OFFERING ANY MEANS OF
PAYMENT FOR THE HANDBAG

VICTIM PLACED HER HANDBAG IN THE TROLLEY AND FORGOT TO PICK UP HER HANDAG. BAG AND CONTENTS STOLEN BY UNIDENTIFIED SUSPECT.

THE SUSPECT HAS TAKEN THE VICTIM'S MOBILE PHONE AND PURSE WHISLT IN THE VICTIM'S HANDBAG

THE SUSPECT HAS ENTERED THE STORE AND SELECTED TWO HANDBAGS FROM THE STORE DISPLAY. THEY HAVE THEN LEFT THE STORE WITH THE TWO BAGS MAKING NO ATTEMPT TO PAY FOR THEM.

SUSPECT HAS STOLEN VICTIMS WALLET FROM HER HANDBAG.

SUSPECT/S HAVE STOLEN VICTIMS HANDBAG AND CONTENTS OVERNIGHT .

FEMALE SUSPECT [REDACTED] SELECTED A HANDBAG AND EXITED THE STORE WITHOUT MAKING PAYMENT.

VICTIM HAS BEEN IN A NIGHTCLUB AND WHILST THERE, SUSPECT(S) HAS STOLEN HER HANDBAG FROM THE CLUB.

SUSPECT IS NOT KNOWN TO THE VICTIM. SUSPECT HAS STOLEN THE VICTIMS HANDBAG.

[REDACTED] ONE OF THE SUSPECTS SELECTED TWO HANDBAGS AND LEAVES THE STORE WITHOUT OFFERING ANY MEANS OF PAYMENT FOR THESE ITEMS. [REDACTED]

VICTIM HAS STATED [REDACTED] PUT HER PURSE IN HER HANDBAG [REDACTED] WHEN SHE OPENED HER BAG [REDACTED] CASH WAS MISSING

VICTIM [REDACTED] IDENTIFIED £50 MISSING FROM HER PURSE. THIS PURSE WAS LEFT IN HER HANDBAG [REDACTED]

THE SUSPECT ENTERED THE CRIME LOCATION, WALKED OVER TO A DISPLAY CONTAINING HANDBAGS, AND SELECTED THREE ITEMS. THE SUSPECT HAS THEN LEFT THE STORE MAKING NO ATTEMPT TO PAY FOR THEM.

SUSPECT [REDACTED] TAKEN VICTIMS WIFE'S CARD FROM HER HANDBAG [REDACTED]

THE VICTIM HAD WITHDRAWN [REDACTED] CASH FROM THE BANK WHICH WAS PLACED IN HER HANDBAG. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] CASH INSIDE HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM HER HANDBAG BY THE SUSPECTS.

SUSPECT (UNKNOWN) HAS ENTERED THE LOCATION AND TAKEN £300 WORTH OF HANDBAGS IN WHICH SUSPECT HAS THEN PLACED INTO HER OWN BAG. SUSPECT HAS THEN RAN OUT THE LOCATION WITHOUT PAYING AND SET THE AUDIO DOOR ALARMS OFF.

VICTIM WORKS IN THE STORE AT OFFENCE LOCATION. VICTIM HAD HER MOBILE PHONE ON HER DESK. SUSPECT HAS ENTERED THE STORE AND PLACED HER SCARF AND HANDBAG ON TOP OF THE PHONE. SUSPECT HAS LOOKED AT ITEMS WITHIN THE STORE, BUT TOOK HER OWN ITEMS AND LEFT WITHOUT BUYING ANYTHING. VICTIM THEN FOUND THAT SUSPECT HAD TAKEN HER PHONE.

SUSPECT HAS STOLEN THE VICTIM'S HANDBAG AND ITS CONTENTS FROM WHERE THE VICTIM HAD PLACED IT WHILST SHE WAS AT THE LOCATION. [REDACTED]

VICTIM HAS BEEN IN STORE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] VICTIM HAS LEFT SHOPPING BAGS IN THE STORE ONE OF WHICH HAD VICTIMS HANDBAG IN, VICTIM HAS GONE BACK IN TO STORE AND THE BAGS HAVE BEEN TAKEN, [REDACTED]

VICTIMS HANDBAG HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM THE SEAT NEXT TO HER WHILST IN A BAR

VICTIM HAS BEEN OUT WITH HER HUSBAND WHEN THE SUSPECT HAS STOLEN HER HANDBAG.

[REDACTED] THE SUSPECT HAS STOLEN HER HANDBAG AND HAS LEFT HER OWN BAG BEHIND.

[REDACTED] DURING THE SERVICE THE SUSPECT HAS STOLEN ITEMS FROM THE VICTIM'S HANDBAG.

SUSPECT HAS ENTERED THE STORE WITH THREE OTHERS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SUSPECT THEN SELECTED A HANDBAG AND PLACED THIS INTO HER BAG
SUSPECT HAS THEN WALKED TOWARDS THE EXIT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SUSPECT HAS LEFT THE STORE WITHOUT OFFERING ANY MEANS OF PAYMENT [REDACTED]

THE VICTIM AND SUSPECT ARE NOT KNOWN TO EACH OTHER. VICTIM [REDACTED] LATER WENT HOME TO IDENTIFY THAT THE SUSPECT HAD STOLEN HER PURSE FROM HER HANDBAG, [REDACTED]

VICTIM HAS [REDACTED] LEFT HER HANDBAG AT THE LOCATION [REDACTED]

THE VICTIM HAS HAD HER BANK CARDS STOLEN FROM HER HANDBAG [REDACTED]

TWO SUSPECTS HAVE ENTERED THE STORE	
	THE SUSPECTS HAVE THEN REMOVED THE ITEMS SECURITY TAGS
AND PLACED THEM INTO THEIR HANDBAG,	
SUSPECT HAS STOLEN	FROM HER HANDBAG
WHILST AT THE LOCATION, THE VICTIM LEFT HER BAG AT THE TABLE	
WHEN SHE RETURNED HER HANDBAG WAS GONE.	
WHILST VICTIM WAS	SHOPPING SHE MOMENTARILY TOOK HER EYES OFF HER TROLLEY
WHERE SHE PLACED HER HANDBAG. SUSPECT HAS STOLEN VICTIMS PURSE FROM WITHIN.	