



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_24_0110

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_0110

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

Please could you provide me with details for the last three years (2023/2022/2021) about:

1. the number of e-bikes seized by your police force, broken down per year.
2. the number of e-scooters seized by your police force, broken down per year.

If it is possible, can you specify how many of those e-bike and e-scooters were deemed:

1. illegal to be ridden on public roads.
2. had been modified to exceed legal limits.

If that data could be broken down per year, I would be very grateful.

Also, would it be possible to say what has happened to them since they were seized? How many each year were destroyed, scrapped, remain impounded or were auctioned off?

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

Unfortunately there is no central register for this information and no way to retrieve the information by way of electronic searches. Whilst the Constabulary records seizures of e-bikes and e-scooters, there is no central record for the reason for seizure. The only way to determine if this information is recorded is to not only manually review the seizure record, but to also review all linked records and canvass all officers requesting they review their pocket notebooks. It has been estimated that to do this would far exceed the permitted time constraints, therefore Section 12 of the Act is applicable. This section does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimated that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit of 18 hours, equating to £450.00

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.

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

Q1 & 2:

A search of the Property Recording System has been conducted for all seizures of e-bikes and e-scooters. Please note that searches have been conducted using all variations such as "e bike", "e-bike" and "ebike" / "e scooter", "e-scooter" and "escooter".

Please see the annual breakdown below

	2021	2022	2023
e-bikes	0	0	1
e-scooters	40	27	31

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