



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_24_0146

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 28/02/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0146

On 05/02/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

We would like to request the following information if possible:

- What percentage of all reported crimes were bicycle thefts in each full year of 2023, 2022, 2021. (If it is easier, we are happy for you to provide the total number of crimes and the total number of bicycle thefts for each year, and we can work out the percentage ourselves).
- What percentage of all bicycle thefts were electric bikes (for the years of 2023, 2022, 2021 – broken down by each year individually)
- A breakdown of bicycle thefts in each postcode area covered by Gloucestershire Police for the year of 2023

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

Following receipt of your request, searches were conducted. I can confirm that the information you have requested may be held by Gloucestershire Constabulary however we do not record such instances statistically, nor are they held in a format that would allow their extraction within the permitted time constraints. In order to determine if the stolen bicycle was electric or not, a manual review of the relevant records would be required. Following a search of substantiated crimes, a total of 2,072 records have been identified as relevant to your request. A manual review 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

You should consider this to be a refusal notice under Section 17 of the Act for this part of your request.

Please see below for suggestions on how you can refine your request to come within the cost constraints of section 12 of the 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.

Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act, provides the opportunity to assist the applicant with any suggestions or variation that may allow a search to be undertaken within the cost constraints of Section 12 of the Act.

I confirm that the Constabulary could provide the following:

A key word search of the MO freetext comments could be carried out for specific terms, which may then fulfil your request.

If this would be useful, please confirm the exact terms you would like us to search. Please note that a search will only be useful for standalone words/terms that don't also form part of other words/terms.

By way of further assistance, and 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.

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 of the Crime Recording System has been conducted to identify substantiated crimes from 01/01/2021 - 31/12/2023 where the offence of Theft of Pedal Cycle has been recorded. This has returned 2,072 results. Please see the tables below for the requested breakdown of data.

Year	Bicycle Theft	All Crime	% bike thefts
2021	516	43499	1.19%
2022	820	57332	1.43%
2023	736	53615	1.37%

LPA	Year			Total
	2021	2022	2023	
Cheltenham	162	281	337	780
Cotswolds	30	24	31	85
Forest	22	24	15	61
Gloucester	200	345	253	798
Stroud	37	36	45	118
Tewkesbury	23	38	36	97
Unclassified	42	72	19	133
Total	516	820	736	2072

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