



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_25_0059
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 27/05/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0059

On 27/01/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Please could I request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act.

With tradespeople across the UK affected by tool theft I am looking to find:

1. The number of tool marking events that your police force has supported in the following calendar years: 2024 and 2023?
2.
 - (a) How many suspected stolen tools has your police force seized and/or catalogued in the following calendar years: 2024 and 2023?
 - (b) How many of these tools has your police force manage to reunite with their owners in the following calendar years: 2024 and 2023
3. How many arrests has your police force made for offences relating tool theft in the following calendar years: 2024 and 2023?

NB:

The reference to "tools" above relates to those commonly used by tradespeople. This includes, but is not limited to, drills and impact drivers, saws, angle grinders, multi-tools, nail guns, generators, disc cutters, garden power tools, and similar equipment.

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

Unfortunately, it is not possible to electronically search for the information you have requested in relation to how may tools that has been returned to the owners and the number of arrests made for offences relating to tool theft.

In order to identify and retrieve the requested information of the tools being returned to their owners a manual review of the property database of 185 records where a tool has been seized would need to be conducted to ascertain how many have been returned. This manual review would exceed the 18 hours as prescribed by Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

The primary function of the Constabulary's Arrest Recording System is to assist the Constabulary in adhering to Code C of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. As such, its reporting function is limited. The system does not record detention under specific offences under the Home Office Crime Recording Rules; instead it uses Reason for Arrest (RFA) Categories. Unfortunately there is no single RFA Category for offences of tool thefts. Although it's possible to following an arrest through to a recorded crime and the police outcome per individuals, it's not possible to retrieve electronic statistics. Therefore in order to ascertain if any relevant arrest information is recorded, a manual review of 18,082 records would be required. This would clearly take far 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, we have supplied the 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.

1. No specific events took place in 2024 with regards to Tool marking, however in 2023 the crime prevention team went to Selco building in it's opening weekend to give advice and gave away free UV pens. They have also visited various hotels within the area.

2a. 185 tool/s have been recorded as seized items.

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