



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_0209

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 13/03/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0209

On 19/02/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am resending this after some forces questioned the change to the question. Please see this as the fully amended request.....

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act. In order to assist you with this request, I am outlining my query as specifically as possible.

Under the Freedom of Information Act please can I request the following information broken down by the following calendar years: 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024

- 1) How many investigations have been launched into businesses for breaches of Section 22 of the Theft Act 1968. I.e. how many businesses investigated for "handling stolen goods"
- 2) Of those how many resulted in a charge or summons.

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

Unfortunately there is no way to retrieve this information by way of electronic searches. Generally, a business will not be recorded as the offender in cases of Handle Stolen Goods, instead an individual will be recorded – either the retail worker "caught" or the individual owner of the business.

Following your request, I can confirm that a search of Gloucestershire Constabulary's Case Recording System has been conducted for the number of times the offence has been recorded. In order to determine if information is held in relation to your request, and to extract that data, a manual review of these records is required. The search has returned nearly 400 results, meaning that a manual review would take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by the Freedom of Information Act.

You should consider this to be a refusal notice under Section 17 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.

Section 16 – Duty to Assist

If you were to reduce the time timescale of your request to 2 years (01/01/2023 – 31/12/2024), we will be able to conduct a manual review within the permitted time constraints however, as detailed above, this is unlikely to provide you with any data relevant to your request as an individual would be prosecuted rather than a business.

With this in mind, if you still wish for the search and review to be carried out, please submit a new 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