



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_25_0290

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

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Date: 08/04/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0290

On 13/03/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am writing to make a freedom of information request for data held in relation to shoplifting offences recorded between January 2015 and the end of December 2024.

Question 1

Based on keyword searches, please provide me with offence and outcome data held for all shoplifting crimes involving the following items:

- A) Menstrual products (a non-exhaustive list of relevant keywords would also include: feminine hygiene products, tampons, sanitary pads, Tampax, period products, Always pads, mooncup, panty liners)
- B) Baby food or formula (a non-exhaustive list of relevant keywords would also include: baby milk, formula milk, baby milk powder, toddler milk, infant formula)

I would like the data to include a breakdown of the offences by:

- The calendar year the crime was recorded
- Either the month or the calendar quarter the crime was recorded
- The offence code
- The name of the offence
- Details recorded about the item(s) stolen
- The outcome recorded, as per Home Office outcome types category (eg outcome 1 - charge/summons, outcome 2 - caution, etc)
- The sex of the suspect
- The officer defined ethnicity of the suspect, where available
- The self reported ethnicity of the suspect, where available

- The age of the suspect if possible, or the age group if not (eg under 10, 10-17, 18-20, 21-30, 31-40, 41-50, 51-60, 61-70,71+)

The data table should follow the format of one row per offence recorded, with column headers consisting of the above bullet points (eg year, month/quarter etc). Please provide data for menstrual products and baby food separately, in separate tables.

I would like the data provided in a machine readable format, as either an XLS spreadsheet or CSV. Please do not provide a PDF.

Question 2

As per the flagging process outlined in the Home Office Annual Data Requirement, please provide me with data held on offence and outcome data held for all shoplifting crimes where it has been flagged that the offence, suspect or victim was linked to modern slavery.

I would like the data to include a breakdown of the offences by:

- The calendar year the crime was recorded
- Either the month or the calendar quarter the crime was recorded
- The offence code
- The name of the offence
- Details recorded about the item(s) stolen
- Any details recorded about the circumstances of the slavery flag
- The outcome recorded, as per Home Office outcome types category (eg outcome 1 - charge/summons, outcome 2 - caution, etc)
- The sex of the suspect
- The officer defined ethnicity of the suspect, where available
- The self reported ethnicity of the suspect, where available
- The age of the suspect if possible, or the age group if not (eg under 10, 10-17, 18-20, 21-30, 31-40, 41-50, 51-60, 61-70,71+)

The data table should follow the format of one row per offence recorded, with column headers consisting of the above bullet points (eg year, month/quarter etc).

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

Unfortunately, it's not possible to electronically search for the information you have requested.

The [2023/24 Annual Data Requirement from Police Forces in England & Wales](#) document states that Modern Slavery Flagged offences is voluntary as opposed to mandatory. Unfortunately the Constabulary does not have a Modern Slavery tag/flag on the Crime Recording System. As such, in order to retrieve information relating to question 2, all Shoplifting offences would need to be manually reviewed to ascertain if any have been noted to have links to Modern Slavery.

Given that the Constabulary records thousands of Shoplifting offences per year, this would clearly take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of the Freedom of Information act.

Please see below for suggestions on how you may be able to 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.

Under Section 16, duty to assist I can confirm that if you omit question 2, we will be able to conduct a search for information relating to question 1.

Please note that the Constabulary's crime recording system does not have specific property items recorded within the remit of question 1 above. As such, it won't be possible to search directly for shoplifting offences whereby relevant property items were recorded. However, it will be possible to conduct a search for shoplifting offences whereby specific terms are present in the MOs recorded. Obviously the results of such a search are entirely reliant on those specific terms being present in the MO and as such may not be an accurate reflection of the number of relevant offences. By its very nature, an MO is a precis of the offence and is unlikely to list all items taken in a shoplifting incident.

If this would still be useful, please submit a new FOI Request to foi@gloucestershire.police.uk listing all terms you would like us to search for.

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