



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_25_0334
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 07/05/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0334

On 21/03/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Please treat this as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am requesting data held by your police force on thefts specifically relating to building materials stolen from vans.

Please provide the following information:

The number of recorded thefts involving building materials stolen being stolen for each of the last 3 calendar years (2022–2024), broken down by year.

If available, please also include:

The type or description of materials stolen (e.g. timber, cement, bricks, plasterboard, etc.)

The location of where the materials were stolen from such as vans, construction sites, driveways etc.

The number of arrests and/or charges made in connection with these incidents.

Clarification was sent on 27/03/2025 with the following:

Please can you refer to the below list of the property items which Gloucestershire Police record items for, please can you confirm which items you would like a search to be conducted for:

building fitting fixture|blind|
building fitting fixture|blind|security / bar etc

building fitting fixture|blind|sun / awning
building fitting fixture|blind|venetian / roller
building fitting fixture|boundary wall / fence|
building fitting fixture|electric|
building fitting fixture|electric|alarm
building fitting fixture|electric|cable / wiring
building fitting fixture|electric|fitting
building fitting fixture|electric|other
building fitting fixture|furniture unit|
building fitting fixture|gas|
building fitting fixture|gate|
building fitting fixture|nails / screws / fixing|
building fitting fixture|name / number plate / sign|
building fitting fixture|other|
building fitting fixture|plumbing|
building fitting fixture|plumbing|boiler
building fitting fixture|plumbing|other
building fitting fixture|plumbing|radiators / pipe
building fitting fixture|security light|
building fitting fixture||
building material|brick / block|
building material|cement|
building material|paving slab etc|
building material|plaster / plaster board|
building material|sand / gravel etc|
building material|tile / slate roof|
building material|tile floor / wall|
building material|timber|
building material||
building|ceiling|
building|door|
building|fireplace|
building|floor|
building|greenhouse|
building|roof|
building|shed|
building|wall|
building|window / frame|
building|window / glass|
building||
hand tool|not power|
hand tool|not power|axe
hand tool|not power|bolt cropper
hand tool|not power|chisel
hand tool|not power|crowbar nail bar
hand tool|not power|drill
hand tool|not power|file
hand tool|not power|fork
hand tool|not power|garden hose
hand tool|not power|hammer
hand tool|not power|hoe
hand tool|not power|ladder
hand tool|not power|mallet

hand tool|not power|other
hand tool|not power|penknife
hand tool|not power|pickaxe
hand tool|not power|pincers / pliers
hand tool|not power|plane
hand tool|not power|pruning / lopping
hand tool|not power|rake
hand tool|not power|saw
hand tool|not power|scissors
hand tool|not power|screwdriver
hand tool|not power|shears
hand tool|not power|shovel
hand tool|not power|soldering iron
hand tool|not power|spade
hand tool|not power|spanner hand
hand tool|not power|spanner socket
hand tool|not power|spirit level
hand tool|not power|tape measure
hand tool|not power|tool box
hand tool|not power|trowel
hand tool|not power|wheelbarrow
hand tool|not power|workmate
hand tool|power|
hand tool|power|breaker
hand tool|power|chain saw
hand tool|power|disc cutter angle grinder
hand tool|power|drill
hand tool|power|drill bit / attachment
hand tool|power|extension lead
hand tool|power|garden vacuum / blower
hand tool|power|hedge trimmer
hand tool|power|nail gun
hand tool|power|other
hand tool|power|paint stripper
hand tool|power|planer
hand tool|power|router
hand tool|power|sander
hand tool|power|saw
hand tool|power|screwdriver
hand tool|power|steam stripper
hand tool|power|trimmer / brushcutter
hand tool||

A response to the clarification was received on 28/03/2023 with the following:

Would it be possible to get all of the property you mentioned.

Further clarification was sent on 31/03/2025 with the following:

Please are you able to look at the new list below of the MO Codes for a location of where the theft took place:

101 – Airport

102 – Alleyway

103 – Allotment
104 – Ambulance Station
105 – Amusement Arcade
111 – Bakery
112 – Bank
113 – Bar
119 – Bicycle Park
120 – Bingo Hall
121 – Bowling Alley
125 – Building Site
130 – Bus Station
134 – Car
135 – Car Park
137 – Caravan
138 – Caravan/Camping Site
139 – Cash and Carry
145 – Chemist
146 – Church
147 - Cinema
150 – College/University
151 – Commercial – Large Premises
152 – Common/Green
155 – Court
157 – Crematorium
160 – Dentist Surgery
162 – Department Store
167 – Doctors Surgery
168 – Door Step
169 – Driveway
175 – Estate Agents
178 – Factory
180 – Farm
184 – Fire Station
190 – football Club
195 – Garage
196 – Garden
197 – Garden Centre
200 – Golf Club
202 – Grounds
203 – Gun Club
205 – Hall – Community
2064 – Compound/ Yard
210 – Hostel
211 – Hotel / B&B
215 – Industrial Estate
224 – Leisure Centre
225 – Library
226 – Loading Area
228 – Lorry Park
2320 – Forecourt
235 – Military Establishment
238 – Monastery
241 – Mosque

246 – Museum / Art gallery
247 – Nature Reserve
248 – Night-Club
249 – Nursery
250 – Off Licence
251 – Office
254 – Park Mill
255 – Park
257 – Pawn Broker
260 – Petrol Station
263 – Post Office
265 – Prison
266 – Public House
269 – Railway Station
273 – Residential Dwelling
274 – Residential Other
275 – Restaurant
280 – School
281 – Scrap Yard
285 – Shed / Outbuilding
287 – Shop
288 – Shopping Centre
290 – Snooker Hall
294 – Sports Ground/ Playing Field
296 – Supermarket
305 – Theatre
306 – Tobacconist/ Newsagent
316 – Warehouse
340 – Alley
43 – Caravans
5076 – Bus Station
611 – Railway Line

Once you have reviewed the list, please are you able to advise me which MO Code for a location would assist you with your search.

A response to the further clarification was received on 14/04/2025 with the following:
Am I able to just get the tool theft from anywhere, no specific location please.

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

The primary function of the Constabulary 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. This system does not record detentions under specific offences under the Home Office Crime Recording Rules; instead it uses Reason for Arrest (RFA) Categories. Unfortunately, it's possible to follow an arrest through to recorded crime and police outcome per individuals, it is not possible to retrieve electronic statistics. Therefore in order to ascertain if any relevant arrest information is recorded a manual review of all custody records would be required, a search of the custody recording system for 01/01/2024 – 31/12/2024 would require a review of over 17,900 records. 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.

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.

Following receipt of your request, initial searches of the crime recording system were conducted for all substantiated crimes recorded between 01/01/2022 – 31/12/2024 where the property items from the list above is recorded as Stolen and Stolen/Recovered.

The results are as follows:

Year	Total
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2022	18
2023	7
Total	25

Property Item	Total
building material	2
hand tool	5
hand tool not power	1
hand tool not power chisel	1
hand tool not power ladder	1
hand tool not power other	2
hand tool power	3
hand tool power drill	10
hand tool power nail gun	3
hand tool power other	8
hand tool power planer	2
hand tool power sander	1
hand tool power saw	8
Total	47

Please note that there may be more than one property item per crime.

Please note that the statistics provided are restricted by the fact that Property Items are only recorded against Crime Records where the item has a unique identifier.

Locations	Total
Building Site	3
Driveway	2
Excavation Site	1
Farm	1
garage	2
Garden	1
Road	1
Shop	10
Shop	2

Unknown	1
Work Site	1
Total	25

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