



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_0357

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 10/04/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0357

On 31/03/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. What department currently deals with allegations of wildlife crime within your force?
2. How many officers/staff are currently employed by your force?
3. How many incidents of wildlife crime (including but not limited to hunting, baiting, wildlife disturbance, poaching, illegal fishing, egg theft, offences against badgers, bats, birds of prey) have been reported to the force within the last 5 years?
4. How many incidents of wildlife crime resulted in a charge for the suspect within the last 5 years?
5. How many incidents of wildlife crime resulted in a conviction within the last 5 years?
6. How many incidents of wildlife crime resulted in Proceeds of Crime Act penalties following conviction within the last 5 years?
7. How many officers/staff members within your force have been trained in wildlife crime investigation?
8. How many officers/staff within your force are Accredited Financial Investigators?

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

Unfortunately there is no central register for this information and no way to retrieve the information by way of electronic searches.

When an Individual contacts the police and it is deemed to be a police matter, an incident will be created on the Incident Recording System. Please note that the word "incident" in Gloucestershire Constabulary's terminology refers to a type of record, not the event as a whole. If an offence is being reported (rather than a missing person for example) the "incident" will be assessed to determine if the offence falls within the Home Office Crime

Recording Rules. If that incident is deemed to fall within the counting rules, a “crime” will be recorded on the Crime Recording System.

The Incident Recording System is largely a free text entry system and does not record information in as much detail as the Crime Recording System and therefore its reporting function is limited. I can confirm that whilst there are some recording tags that may be relevant to your request used within this system, they will not identify all relevant records and therefore will not answer your enquiry in full. Further to this, information regarding police outcomes, such as charge, are not recorded within the Incident Recording System, but on the Crime Recording System. As such, a manual review and cross reference of records will be required in order to determine if relevant information is held. It has been estimated that this part of the request 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.

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 – Duty to Assist

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 have numbered your questions above for ease of reference.

I can confirm that we could conduct searches to answer questions 2, 7 & 8

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. Rural Crime Team

5. No Information Held – this is not Police data. Please note that the Constabulary only holds data in relation to the number of individuals charged/summoned for a particular offence. The ultimate outcome of these offences depends on what happens at court i.e. whether the offender is found guilty (convicted) or not. This information comes from the court results which do not come within our systems. Hence we record the detection disposals for each case but do not have the ultimate conviction data.

Therefore any information relating to the outcome of a case, the length of sentence or whether any appeal was made is not held by the constabulary, but by the HM Courts Service. Please find a link below to their website:

www.justice.gov.uk/

6. No Information Held – not police data per question 5

If the information for questions 2, 7 & 8 is still of use to you, you can submit a new request for these questions.

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,

