



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI\_25\_0386

E-mail: FOI  
@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

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Date: 11/05/2025

Dear

**Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI\_25\_0386**

On 07/04/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I would be grateful if you could provide the following information for each of the past three calendar years: 2022, 2023, and 2024. If possible, please complete the attached Excel form. If now, please respond to the questions as listed below:

**1. Total Number of Tool Theft Cases**

- a. How many reports of tool theft have been recorded annually in your jurisdiction?
- b. Of these, how many involved thefts from vehicles, homes, and commercial premises?

**2. Investigation & Case Closure Rates**

- a. What is the average length of time spent investigating each reported tool theft case before it is closed?
- b. How many tool theft cases were closed within the following timeframes:
  - i. 24 hours
  - ii. 48 hours
  - iii. One week
  - iv. One month
- c. How many cases remain open beyond one month?

**3. Arrests, Charges, and Convictions**

- a. How many tool theft cases resulted in an arrest each year?
- b. How many led to formal charges?
- c. How many resulted in a conviction?

#### 4. Recovery of Stolen Tools

- a. How many cases resulted in the recovery of stolen tools?
- b. What percentage of recovered tools were returned to their original owners?

#### 5. Police Resources & Prioritisation

- a. How many officers (FTE) are assigned to investigate tool theft cases?
- b. Are tool theft cases given a specific priority level compared to other property crimes?

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

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

I can confirm that when recording crimes involving theft offences, only property items that have a unique identifier are specifically recorded. Therefore if there is no unique serial number for example, it's unlikely that the property item will be itemised (please note the theft offence will still be recorded). Therefore in order to retrieve accurate statistics, all Theft offences recorded in the time period requested would need to be manually reviewed to ascertain if they related to the theft of tools.

With regard to time spent investigating such offences, Theft offences are normal policing duties and the time spent dealing with such offences is not recorded separately.

I can also confirm that the property system is a standalone system that does not link to the crime recording system. This system separately records each property item that has been lost, found or seized and whether it has been returned. However, the system's reporting function is limited. As such, it's not possible to electronically search this system to ascertain any stolen property that has been recovered and link it to specific offences.

In order to retrieve accurate statistics regarding theft of tool offences, a manual review of thousands of crime records would be required, which would 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 can provide the following 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.

I can confirm that a search has been conducted of Crimes recorded from 01/01/2022 to 31/12/2024 whereby any of the following property items were recorded as stolen:

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|

The results broken down by number of offences and police outcomes is as follows:

| Police Outcome                                                                               | 2022      | 2023      | 2024     | Total      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|------------|
| 1 - Charged/Summons                                                                          | 2         | 1         |          | 3          |
| 14 - Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action | 1         |           |          | 1          |
| 15 - Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim supports action                     | 2         | 2         |          | 4          |
| 16 - Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support further action     |           | 2         |          | 2          |
| 18 - Investigation complete: no suspect identified                                           | 50        | 42        | 5        | 97         |
| 4 - Taken into consideration                                                                 | 2         |           |          | 2          |
| Ongoing                                                                                      |           | 1         | 1        | 2          |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                                 | <b>57</b> | <b>48</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>111</b> |

The results broken down by number of property items and whether they were recorded as recovered is as follows:

| Status       | 2022       | 2023       | 2024      | Total      |
|--------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| RECOVERED    | 1          | 6          | 1         | 8          |
| STOLEN       | 160        | 102        | 10        | 272        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>161</b> | <b>108</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>280</b> |

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](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)

Post –

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer  
Gloucestershire Constabulary