



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_0392

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 08/05/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0392

On 08/04/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I would like to request information under the Freedom of Information Act concerning the issuing of firearms certificates and inspections over the past five years.

1. I would like to know the number of firearms certificates issued over the past five years.
2. The number of new certificates issued.
3. The number of inspections. Can I have this broken down to inspections of new firearms certificate applications and renewal applications.
4. Can I have figures for the number of applications and refusals.
5. Also, could I have information on the number of firearms offences investigated by your force where the weapon was legally held (or had a firearms certificate).
6. Can i also find out the number of legally held firearms reported stolen over that period.
7. Can you break down the number of firearms held by type?

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. The only way of trying to determine whether any relevant information is held and to retrieve that information would be to manually review each crime record where the offence falls under the Home Office Offence

Classifications of “Theft” and “Burglary” to identify records where there is a relevant property item recorded as stolen. The results would then need to be cross-referenced with records held within the Firearms Licensing Team records to determine if the victim holds a firearms license or not.

As the initial search would involve the manual review of hundreds, if not thousands, of records, this would take considerably longer than the 18 hours prescribed by the Freedom of Information Act.

Please see below for suggestions on how you can 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.

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.

Gloucestershire Constabulary may be able to answer questions 1-4. If this would be of use to you, you can resubmit your request for these questions only.

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