



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_25_0426
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 16/05/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0426

On 15/04/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I would like to submit a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) regarding foraging or picking of plants. Please provide the relevant information for the period between 1 April 2022 and the most recent date for which data is available.

Please could you provide the following:

The number of reports made to your force about foraging or picking of plants.

Please could you provide the following breakdown:

1. A yearly breakdown of the number of reports made about foraging or picking of plants.
2. The approximate location (for example: name of the park or road) at which the foraging or picking of plants allegedly took place.
3. Whether the report of foraging or picking of plants led to a charge.
4. The names of the offences under which these charges were made.
5. The number of these charges which proceeded to conviction.

If you need to carry out a key terms search to locate these records, please include the terms "foraged", "foraging", "wild food", "forager", "wild ingredients". If you would document these cases in another way, please include these results as per the spirit of my request.

Please provide the response in an Excel spreadsheet.

If you feel that my request is unclear or too broad, I would be grateful if you could provide me with some guidance as to how I could refine it.

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 in 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 Crime Rules, a "crime" will be recorded on the Crime Recording System.

Please note that the Incident Recording System is largely a free text entry system and does not record information in a much detail as the Crime Recording System and therefore its reporting function is limited, therefore a free text search of the incidents for specific key words may bring back some results, however this would be restricted to those words only, any other terms used by an individual to describe the scenario would not returned in the results.

The Constabulary records crime under the Home Office Crime Recording Rules and there is no offence for 'foraging' or 'picking of plants', and any crime may fall within several categories including theft and criminal damage. 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. This would involve in the review of hundreds of records and would therefore take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by 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.

Section 16 – unable to assist

Unfortunately, I'm unable to assist in suggesting ways of refining your request to come within the confines of Section 12 of the Act. Even reducing the timescale would not reduce the number of records enough that a manual review could be conducted within the timescale but still provide meaningful information.

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