



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_25_0474

E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 03/06/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0474

On 06/05/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. From 2019 to the most recent data available, how many crimes were logged by your police force where a slingshot was recorded as being an element in the offence? Please provide a yearly breakdown in a table (Note: I would hope that this could be achieved by a computer search on the MO of crimes for the word "slingshot" or synonyms like "catapult")
2. Please provide me with a table showing a breakdown of the crimes from Question 1 that are 'linked' to slingshot/s by its mention in the MO for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 by offence subgroup as per the Home Office counting rules.

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

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 the Constabulary's Crime Recording system has an MO code of 'catapult'. As such, a search has been conducted of crimes recorded from 01/01/2019 to

31/12/2024 whereby the MO code of 'catapult' has been recorded and/or the terms 'catapult' or 'slingshot' were present in the MO. Any duplicates have then been removed from the data.

The results are as follows:

HO Groups	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Arson and criminal damage	14	31	21	17	18	13	114
Burglary			1			1	2
Miscellaneous crimes against society					2		2
Possession of weapons	1	1	1	2			5
Public Order		1		5	2	1	9
Robbery					1		1
Theft				1			1
Vehicle offences		1					1
Violence against the person	2	3	1	6	8	4	24
Total	17	37	24	31	31	19	159

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