



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_25_0513
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 06/06/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0513

On 14/05/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding tool theft offences recorded by your force.

I would be grateful if you could provide the following data, ideally covering the past five years. If five years of data is not available, the most recent two years will suffice:

1. The number of reported tool thefts, broken down by:

- o Theft from vehicles
- o Theft from residences
- o Theft from workplaces

Please include this data by postcode area, if possible.

2. For thefts from vehicles:

- o The make and model of the vehicles targeted
- o The number of offences associated with each make and model

3. The time of day and day of the week when these offences occurred, segmented by theft location (vehicle, residence, workplace).

4. The recorded outcomes of these offences, including:

- o Whether the tools were recovered
- o Whether an arrest was made
- o Whether the case resulted in no further action

5. Monthly breakdown of tool thefts over the requested time period.

6. Number of tool theft offences by postcode area.

7. A breakdown of the types or categories of tools stolen, and the number of incidents involving each type.

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

Unfortunately, it is not possible to electronically search for the information you have requested in relation the number of arrests made for offences relating to tool theft.

The primary function of the Constabulary's Arrest Recording System is to assist the Constabulary in adhering to Code C of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. As such, its reporting function is limited. The system does not record detention under specific offences under the Home Office Crime Recording Rules; instead it uses Reason for Arrest (RFA) Categories. Unfortunately there is no single RFA Category for offences of tool thefts. Although it's possible to following an arrest through to a recorded crime and the police outcome per individuals, it's not possible to retrieve electronic statistics. Therefore in order to ascertain if any relevant arrest information is recorded, a manual review of 18,082 records would be required. This would clearly take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Please see below for suggestions on how you may be able to 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.

Under section 16 duty to assist, I can confirm that a search of the Crime Recording System for the following offences of:

30C – Burglary Business and Community

31A – Aggravated Burglary – business and community

28I Residential burglary

28J – Attempted Residential Burglary of a Home

28K - Distraction Burglary - Residential (Home)
28L Attempted Distraction Burglary - Residential (Home)
28M Residential Burglary of Unconnected Building
28N Attempted Residential Burglary of Unconnected Building
28O Distraction Burglary - Residential (Unconnected Building)
28P Attempted Distraction Burglary - Residential (Unconnected Building)
29B Aggravated Burglary Residential (Home)
29C Aggravated Burglary - Residential (Unconnected Building)
30D Attempted Burglary - Business and Community
45 Theft from a Motor Vehicle
40 Theft in a dwelling other than from automatic machine or meter
49 Other Theft
46 Shoplifting
39 Theft from the Person

A free text search of the MO's can be conducted for the keywords of 'Tool', 'Tools', or a search of specific property items (list is below):

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||

Please note we will not be able to provide the postcode of where the offence took place, however we can provide the Local Policing Area (LPA).

We may be able to provide the rest of the information and we can provide any recorded outcomes.

If the recommendations under Section 16 duty to assist, would help you with answering your request please submit a new FOI.

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