



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_0529

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 16/06/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0529

On 22/05/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am writing to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding incidents involving barbecues (BBQs) over the past 3 years:

Time Period: January 2022 to the most recent available month in 2025

Breakdown: Ideally by month and by city/town, or region if more appropriate

1. The number of call-outs where BBQs were a contributing factor (e.g., reports of fire, public disturbance, antisocial behaviour, etc.). If you can provide the call out type with this it would be great but total number if not.
2. The number of arrests or charges brought as a result of fires started by BBQs.
3. The number of arrests or charges brought in connection with disturbances at BBQs (e.g., alcohol-related, antisocial behaviour, fights, etc.).

Please provide any relevant caveats on how this data is recorded or retrieved.

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 on 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. The Incident Recording System is largely a free text entry system its reporting function is limited. An initial search of the incident recording system has been conducted for the date range of 01/01/2022 – 30/04/2025 where the key terms of "BBQ" and

“barbecue” are recorded. This has returned over 500 records that require manual review to determine relevance to your request.

With regards to Arrest data, 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 detentions under specific offences under the Home Office Crime Recording Rules; instead it uses Reason for Arrest (RFA) Categories. Whilst there are suitable RFAs such as Arson and Criminal Damage, these also need to be manually reviewed to determine relevance to your request. An initial search for the number of arson and criminal damage arrest records has returned over 2,600 records.

In both cases stated above, in order to ascertain if any relevant information is recorded, a manual review of all 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 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 – Duty to assist

By way of assistance I confirm that the Constabulary could search its crime database for all crimes where the terms “BBQ” and/or “barbecue” appears in the MO. Depending upon the number of crimes retrieved by the search, we may be able to manually review the crimes to determine whether the information is relevant to your request. If you wish to submit a request on this basis, please let us know.

If this would be useful, please confirm the exact terms you would like us to search. Please note that a search will only be useful for standalone words/terms that don't also form part of other words/terms.

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