



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_25_0513
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 09/06/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0561

On 30/05/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am conducting research into suicides within the construction industry, and loss of one's tools is a widely reported issue related to depression.

Do you hold information on persons arrested for such thefts who were employed in the industry?

From the year 2000 onwards?

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 to persons arrested who are employed in the construction industry.

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 follow an arrest through to a recorded crime and the police outcome per individuals, it's not possible to retrieve electronic statistics. In order to ascertain if any relevant arrest information is recorded, a manual review of all records for the requested time period would be required. To provide context of data a search has been conducted on detentions from 01.06.2022 – 01.06.2025, this returned over 26,000 records. This manual review would clearly take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Please also note that occupation is a non-mandatory free text field and may be updated each time an individual comes into contact with the police. Electronic searches could only extract the occupation recorded on the system at the time the search is made if the field has been completed. For example a victim may have come into contact with the police in 2006 when their occupation was recorded and then again in 2014 when the occupation field was updated. The occupation then showing on the system would not be correct for the 2006 crime. Equally a victim's occupation may not be recorded at all on initial contact but recorded at a later stage following subsequent contact with the police. It would be incorrect to link the occupation showing on the system to the earlier crime.

As the same with the detention data, to establish if any relevant data is held would require a manual review which would again result in a section 12 refusal.

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.

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