



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_25_0648
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 18/07/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0648

On 27/06/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. The number of illegal / non-compliant e-bikes that have been seized by your police force in each of the past five calendar years?

Please also include:

- A breakdown by year, please include: 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024.

2. The number of reported incidents of phone snatching or muggings in which an illegal or non-compliant e-bike was used as part of the offence, recorded over the past five calendar years.

Please also include:

- A yearly breakdown of such incidents, please include: 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024.

3. The number of fines and/or arrests made in connection with the use, possession, or operation of illegal e-bikes over the past five calendar years?

Please also provide:

- A yearly breakdown of the number of fines and arrests, please include: 2020, 2021, 2022,
- 2023, 2024.

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

Unfortunately, it is not electronically possible to search for the information you have requested in questions 2 & 3.

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. 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 counting 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 as much detail as the Crime Recording System and therefore its reporting function is limited.

Unfortunately there is no way of electronically searching for the information you have requested. The Incident Recording System does not have any way of identifying the number of report incidents of phone snatching or muggings where an illegal or non-compliant e-bike was used as part of the offence, other than where the word is recorded within the report, therefore in order to ascertain incidents that relate to any incidents where a phone has been snatched or mugged where an illegal or non-complaint e-bike was used, a manual review of all incidents for the years requested would be required. Given that the Constabulary records approximately 500 incidents per day, this would clearly take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act

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. Unfortunately there is no single RFA Category for offences committed in connection with the use, possession, or operation of illegal e-bikes. Although it's possible to follow an arrest through to a recorded crime and the police outcome per individual, it's not possible to retrieve electronic statistics. Therefore in order to ascertain if any relevant arrest information is recorded, a manual review of over 32,000 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, if you were to omit questions 2 and 3. We may be able to provide you with information for question 1.

If this would assist, please submit a new FOI Request.

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