



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_0744

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 03/11/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0744

On 25/07/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I would like to request the following information:

1. The number of reported incidents of tool theft recorded by your police force for each of the last five calendar years (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024), and if available, year-to-date data for 2025.
2. For each year, please provide a breakdown of:
 - a. The number of thefts from vehicles, residential properties, construction sites, or commercial premises (if this categorisation is available).
 - b. The estimated total value of tools reported stolen each year (if recorded).

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. 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. The only way of trying to determine whether any

relevant information is held and to retrieve that information would be to manually review each incident where a relevant closure code is recorded. These include Theft from a motor vehicle, Theft – other, Burglary dwelling and Burglary non dwelling. For just the calendar year of 2024, there are over 7,000 records that would require manual review to determine relevance to your request. This would obviously take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by 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.

Section 16 – Duty to Assist

By way of assistance I confirm that the Constabulary could conduct alternative searches of the crime database for substantiated crime;

We are able to search for crimes using specific Home Office offences. These can then be filtered to identify those where either there are property items recorded as stolen, or where specific terms appear in the MO freetext.

The relevant offences are:

- 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

The relevant property items are:

- 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||

However, if these property item titles are not suitable, a free text search of the crime MO can be conducted for keywords identified by you.

Following a search of the crime recording system, we may then be able to provide the requested breakdowns for Q2.

If this would be suitable, please submit a new 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