



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_0792

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 08/09/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0792

On 07/08/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information relating to your police force area:

1. The number of reported incidents of HGV (Heavy Goods Vehicle) fuel theft in your County for each of the past five full calendar years.
2. The number of prosecutions that have resulted from these reported incidents within the same time periods.

If possible, I would appreciate it if the data for each year could also be broken down by month.

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. 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 the result code is Theft - Other to identify if the offence is linked to a HGV. Even by narrowing down the timeframe to the calendar year of 2024 alone, the number of records requiring a manual review still exceeds 4,200, which would take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by 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

When an Individual contacts the police and it's deemed to be a police matter, an incident will be created on the Incident Recording System. If that incident is deemed to fall within the Home Office Crime Recording Rules, a crime will be recorded on the Crime Recording System.

By way of assistance, I confirm that the Constabulary could search its crime database for substantiated crimes of Theft where the term "HGV" appears in the MO. Depending upon the number of crimes retrieved by the search, we may then be able to manually review the crimes to determine whether the information held 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 for 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