



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_0938

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 09/10/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0938

On 25/09/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

In the financial years 2020/21, 21/22, 22/23, 23/24, 24/25, how many arrests were made in relation to criminal offences against or involving swans?

Of those arrests, how many involved the killing or intention of killing swans for human consumption?

Of those arrests, how many were non-UK citizens?

Of those arrested, how many were convicted?

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 Constabulary records arrests under specific reason for arrest codes (RFAs) and can only search against the specific codes. There is no code related to Swans and any arrest may fall within several categories including criminal damage. The only way of trying to determine whether any relevant information is held and to retrieve that information would be to manually review each arrest in all possible arrest codes. This would involve the review of hundreds, if not thousands of records and would therefore 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 of the Freedom of Information Act, provides the opportunity to assist the applicant with any suggestions or variation that may allow a search to be undertaken within the cost constraints of Section 12 of the Act.

I confirm that the Constabulary could provide the following:

A search of the Crime Recording System could be conducted to identify substantiated crimes. Depending on the number of search results, it may then be possible to manually review the records to determine if the offender is a non-UK citizen.

Crimes are recorded according to the Home Office counting rules. Using the link below, you can specify the crime categories that you believe are relevant to your enquiry and would like us to search on.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counting-rules-for-recorded-crime>

With regard to the number of those convicted, please note that the Constabulary only holds data in relation to the number of individuals charged/summoned for a particular offence. The ultimate outcome of these offences depends on what happens at court i.e. whether the offender is found guilty (convicted) or not. This information comes from the court results which do not come within our systems, therefore we record the detection disposals for each case but do not have the ultimate conviction data.

Consequently, any information relating to the outcome of a case, the length of sentence or whether any appeal was made is not held by the constabulary, but by the HM Courts Service.

If Crime data would be useful to you, you can 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