



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_0967

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 19/11/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0967

On 06/10/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding your organisation's handling of energy theft.

1. How many domestic energy theft incidents were reported to your force in 2022, 2023, and 2024? Please provide separate figures for each individual year. What was the estimated total monetary value of these thefts in each year separately?
2. How many domestic energy theft cases resulted in arrests in 2022, in 2023, and in 2024? Please provide the number for each year individually.
3. How many domestic energy theft cases resulted in prosecutions in 2022, in 2023, and in 2024? Please provide the number for each year individually.
4. What was the estimated total amount of stolen energy (in kWh) across all domestic theft cases where this data was recorded? Please provide separate totals for 2022, for 2023, and for 2024.

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

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.

Please note that the Incident Recording System is largely a free text entry system and therefore its reporting function is limited. As such, in order to answer Q1, a manual review of all incidents where the closing code of "Theft-Other" is recorded is required to determine if any relevant information is held. For the calendar year of 2024 alone there are over 4,000 records. A manual review of Incident records would clearly take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by the Freedom of Information Act.

You should therefore consider this to be a refusal notice under Section 17 of the Act for this part of your request.

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.

Section 16 – Duty to assist

When an incident report is created, 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.

We are able to conduct electronic searches of the Crime Recording System to determine if information in answer to your request is held. In order to refine our searches, using the Home Office Crime Recording Rules you can specify the offences that are relevant to your request, for example, “Abstracting electricity”.

I have provided a link below to Home Office webpage where the offences can be found in the document titled “Counting rules notifiable offences and notifiable reported incidents”
[Home Office Crime Recording Rules for frontline officers and staff - GOV.UK](#)

Once the number of substantiated crimes has been identified, we will then be able to provide a breakdown of the recorded outcomes such as Charge, Caution, No Further Action etc.

With regards to Q4, there is no mandatory requirement to record this, however there may be detail recorded within the MO for the offence. Depending on the number of crime records identified from searches, it may be possible to manually review the MO and extract any relevant information. Please be advised that this may become subject to the Section 12 cost refusal

If the above searches would be of use to you, please resubmit your 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