

Gloucestershire Constabulary
Police Headquarters
No.1 Waterwells, Waterwells Drive
Quedgeley, Gloucester. GL2 2AN
www.gloucestershire.police.uk



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_1010

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 15/06/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_1010

On 16/10/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I would like to request the following information regarding vehicle theft in your police force area. Please provide the following, broken down by calendar year for the last three full calendar years (2022, 2023 and 2024). Please also provide information from and 2025 to-date up until 31/09/2025). If data is not available up until then, please specify when the 2025 data runs until.

- Q1.** The total number of recorded incidents of theft of a motor vehicle in your area
- Q2.** The total number of arrests made where the principal offence recorded was theft of motor vehicle
- Q3.** The top three locations (for example towns, districts, or wards) in your force area with the highest number of recorded motor vehicle thefts each year
- Q4.** Of the vehicles reported stolen (theft of motor vehicle), how many were subsequently recovered, broken down by year if available

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

Police Forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data. It should be noted that for these reasons the figures given relate to information from the specific recording system of Gloucestershire Constabulary and should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you receive.

Please note that our systems are designed to record information for policing purposes and the investigation of crime and not to extract statistical information. Accordingly whilst we endeavour to extract relevant data within the time limits of the Act, any data supplied is subject to these limitations.

Q1. Q2.

Area	2022	2023	2024	2025	Grand Total
Cheltenham Local Policing Area	136	143	204	194	677
Gloucester Local Policing Area	123	134	112	109	478
Stroud Local Policing Area	70	121	97	59	347
Cotswolds Local Policing Area	52	95	76	65	288
Tewkesbury Local Policing Area	47	62	66	88	263
Forest Local Policing Area	54	45	56	55	210
Unclassified Local Policing Area	21	9	9	4	43
Grand Total	503	609	620	574	2306

Q3.

Year	Arrests for Vehicle Theft
2022	114
2023	153
2024	142
2025	123
Grand Total	532

Q4. Unfortunately, there is no way of electronically retrieving the information you have requested. The only way to retrieve the data would be to open each of the 2,306 occurrences to see if a disposal of the vehicle has been recorded. This would involve the review of hundreds of records and would therefore take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by the Freedom of Information Act.

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.

Providing Information Outside of the Act

By way of assistance and although excess cost removes the Force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, we have supplied the information relevant to your request which has already been retrieved. We trust this is helpful but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

Section 16 – unable to assist

Unfortunately, I'm unable to assist in suggesting ways of refining your request to come within the confines of Section 12 of the Act. Even reducing the timescale would not reduce the number of records enough that a manual review could be conducted within the timescale but still provide meaningful information.

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