

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



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_1217

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 12/01/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_1217

On 23/12/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following information held by your police force.

1. Theft of parcels

For the most recent 24-month period for which data is available, please provide the total number of recorded crimes involving the theft of delivered parcels from:

- Residential doorsteps
- Designated "safe places" (e.g. porches, sheds, bins, garages).

Please include:

- A monthly breakdown (month and year)
- The crime classification or offence code used to record these incidents.

2. Criminal Damage Associated With Deliveries

For the same 24-month period, please provide the total number of recorded incidents of criminal damage to residential property where:

- The damage was recorded as being caused by delivery personnel
- The damage occurred during or immediately following a delivery.

Please include:

- A monthly breakdown (month and year)
- The crime classification or offence code used.

Additional Information

If the term "porch piracy" is not used by your force, please interpret this request using the closest equivalent offence categories (for example, theft from outside a dwelling).

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

In reference to Q2, 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 crime recorded where the offence falls under the Home Office sub-classification of Criminal Damage. An initial search for the number of crimes recorded between 23/12/2023 and 22/12/2025 has identified over 6,500 records that would need to be reviewed which would obviously 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

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:

With regard to Q1 only, whilst there is no specific offence of parcel theft, we are able to search for crimes recorded under either Theft of Mail or Theft from Person.

We can conduct searches for these offences however some refinement of other aspects of crime recording would be beneficial, such as a search of the MO free text for specific terms – “parcel” for example. We can also filter the records for those where location codes (i.e. “doorstep”, “house”, “residential dwelling” etc) have been added.

If you think that this search would be appropriate, and you would like to re-submit your request, please could you provide the terms you would like us to use for the MO free text search, and identify from the list below which location codes would be fitting.

127 BUNGALOW
137 CARAVAN
138 CARAVAN / CAMPING SITE
163 DETACHED
168 DOORSTEP
169 DRIVEWAY
187 FLAT
188 FLAT BLOCK
195 GARAGE
196 GARDEN
206 HOME - CHILDRENS
207 HOME - HANDICAPPED
208 HOME - OLD PEOPLES
210 HOSTEL
211 HOTEL / B & B
212 HOUSE
213 HOUSEBOAT
229 MANSION
244 MULTI-OCCUPANCY
263 POST OFFICE
273 RESIDENTIAL DWELLING
274 RESIDENTIAL OTHER
282 SEMI-DETACHED
285 SHED/OUTBUILDING
303 TERRACED
304 TERRACED – END
1082 HOME - CARE

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