

Gloucestershire Constabulary
Police Headquarters
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Our reference: FOI_26_0504

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 22/07/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_26_0504

On 28/05/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information relating to fuel theft offences recorded by your force.
Please provide, for each of the last five complete calendar years (or financial years, if this is how your force records the data):

- Q1 The total number of reported fuel theft offences recorded by the force.
- Q2 The estimated total value of fuel reported stolen.

The number of those cases in which:

- Q3 a suspect was identified;
- Q4 a suspect was charged or summonsed;
- Q5 no suspect was identified.

- Where available, the average value of fuel stolen per incident.

If possible, please provide the data in spreadsheet format (CSV or Excel).

For the purposes of this request, "fuel theft" refers to offences involving motorists leaving petrol stations without paying for fuel, sometimes categorised as "bilking", "making off without payment", or similar classifications.

If your force uses a different terminology or offence category, please provide the closest equivalent data available and explain the classification used.

If any part of the request exceeds the cost limit, please advise how the request may be refined to fall within the limit.

We are committed to being an anti-discriminatory organisation. This means not only acting in a non-discriminatory way, but addressing systemic inequalities, disadvantage and discrimination.

I look forward to your response within the statutory 20 working days.

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. We have used several systems to compile the data which has been provided to you

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

Following your request, we obtained a response from our specialist teams within Gloucestershire Constabulary. In relations to Question 2 unfortunately, we do not maintain a central register for this specific information, and it cannot be retrieved via electronic searches. To locate this data, we would have to manually review every single record related to the non-payment of fuel to see if values were entered at the time of the theft. Furthermore, to provide accurate figures, we would need to track down the exact location of each record to verify how much petrol was stolen. This manual process would significantly exceed the 18-hour limit prescribed by the Freedom of Information 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.

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 fee's regulations for the remainder of your request.

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.

Q1) Total number of offences reported that have a tag for fuel in the free search text are 1085.

Questions 3, 4, and 5) please be aware that this data represents the furthest Gloucestershire Constabulary can break down the information. This table reflects Home Office (HO) codes 053/25 (Offence Code 49A), which specifically cover the offence of without payment

Count of detCode	Column Labels				
	2022	2023	2024	2025	Grand Total
Row Labels					
1: Charged	6	3	12	1	22
12: Named suspect identified but is dead or too ill (physical or mental health) to prosecute	1				1
14: Victim declines/unable to support action to identify offender	19	17	8	18	62
15: CPS - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	44	44	50	21	159
15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties				3	3
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	48	29	20	12	109
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified	469	357	391	216	1433
21: Police - named suspect, investigation not in the public interest	3			2	5
3: Adult conditional caution			1	1	2
4: TIC (taken into consideration)		1			1
8: Community resolution	16	19	12	11	58
.			1	4	5
Grand Total	606	470	495	289	1860

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