

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



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_ 26_0588

E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 10/07/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_ 26_0588

On 22/06/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Please provide data on recorded theft offences for the following periods:

1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

1 January 2026 to 31 May 2026

Please include offences where the Modus Operandi, property description, item description, or any other searchable property field contains the word "tool" or "tools".

For each of the above periods, please provide:

Q1. The total number of recorded offences involving stolen tools.

Q2. A breakdown of these offences by broad offence type, such as theft from vehicle, burglary, other theft, or any other relevant category used by your force.

Q3. The recorded outcome breakdown for these offences, using the outcome categories held by your force.

Q4. The total estimated value of tools reported stolen in each period, where this is recorded.

Q5. The highest estimated value of tools reported stolen in a single recorded offence in each period, where this is recorded.

Q6. If recorded and retrievable within the cost limit, please provide the top three towns, districts or local policing areas with the highest number of recorded tool theft offences in each period, along with the number of offences recorded in each area.

Q7. If recorded in a searchable field, please also provide the number of offences involving vans, commercial vehicles, work vehicles or construction sites. However, please exclude this part if it would require a manual review of individual crime reports.

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.

A search was conducted for substantive recorded Theft crimes from 01/01/2024 – 31/05/2026 that has the word 'tool' in the free text.

The below table is for Q1,Q2 and Q3:

	2024	2025	2026	Grand Total
Cheltenham LPA	11	15	5	31
Other theft/unauth taking	5	7	2	14
14: Victim declines/unable to support action to identify offender		1		1
15: CPS - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	1	1		2
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified		1		1
17: Suspect identified but prosecution time limit expired	1			1
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified	3	4	2	9
Shoplifting	4	8	2	14
15: CPS - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	1	1		2
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified	3	6	2	11
4: TIC (taken into consideration)		1		1
Theft by employee	1			1
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	1			1
Theft in a dwelling			1	1

18: Investigation complete no suspect identified			1	1
Theft of pedal cycle	1			1
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified	1			1
Cotswolds LPA	9	5	1	15
Other theft/unauth taking	7	4	1	12
15: CPS - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	2			2
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified	4	4	1	9
21: Police - named suspect, investigation not in the public interest	1			1
Shoplifting		1		1
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified		1		1
Theft by employee	1			1
15: CPS - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	1			1
Theft in a dwelling	1			1
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified	1			1
Forest LPA	6	6	1	13
Other theft/unauth taking	5	4		9
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	2			2
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified	3	4		7
Shoplifting		1		1
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified		1		1
Theft by employee	1			1
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	1			1
Theft in a dwelling		1	1	2
15: CPS - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties		1		1
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified			1	1
Gloucester LPA	19	19	10	48
Other theft/unauth taking	7	9	2	18
15: CPS - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	2			2
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	1			1
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified	4	9	2	15

Shoplifting	11	8	5	24
1: Charged	3		1	4
15: CPS - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	2	1		3
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified		1		1
17: Suspect identified but prosecution time limit expired	1			1
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified	5	6	4	15
Theft from automatic m/c ,meter	1			1
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified	1			1
Theft from the person of another		1		1
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified		1		1
Theft in a dwelling		1	1	2
1: Charged			1	1
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified		1		1
Theft of pedal cycle			2	2
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified			1	1
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified			1	1
Stroud LPA	7	15		22
Other theft/unauth taking	2	12		14
14: Victim declines/unable to support action to identify offender		1		1
15: CPS - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties		2		2
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified	2	9		11
Shoplifting	4	2		6
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified	4	1		5
8: Youth restorative disposal		1		1
Theft by employee	1	1		2
15: CPS - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties		1		1
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified	1			1
Tewkesbury LPA	11	4	2	17
Other theft/unauth taking	10	3	2	15
14: Victim declines/unable to support action to identify offender			1	1

15: CPS - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	1	1		2
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	1			1
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified	8	2	1	11
Theft in a dwelling		1		1
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified		1		1
Theft of pedal cycle	1			1
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified	1			1
Unclassified LPA	1			1
Other theft/unauth taking	1			1
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified	1			1
Grand Total	64	64	19	147

Q4.Q5,Q6,Q7. 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 occurrence listed above to find the requested information. 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.

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:

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, I have supplied the information relevant to your request which has already been retrieved. I 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

Under Section 16 of the Act, unfortunately I'm unable to provide any advice for how you could refine your request to come within the cost constraints of Section 12. Even if you reduce the time period, it's unlikely to reduce the number of crimes enough to make a manual review possible.

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