

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



Your reference: N/A

Our reference: FOI_26_0676

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 17/08/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_26_0676

On 16/07/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I would like to request the following information relating to robberies involving specialist trading card shops, hobby stores, gaming venues, or other businesses that sell Pokemon cards.

For each calendar year from 2021 to 2025 inclusive, please provide:

The number of recorded robbery offences where:

the victim was a specialist trading card shop, hobby store, gaming venue, collectables retailer, or similar business selling Pokemon cards or trading card products; or the stolen items included Pokemon cards, trading cards, or sealed trading card products.

If available, the number of incidents in which Pokemon cards or trading card products were specifically identified as the motive for, or target of, the robbery.

Whether your force has observed any increase in robbery offences targeting businesses selling Pokemon cards or other trading card products during this period. If such analysis has been conducted, please provide any relevant figures, reports or assessments.

The number of individuals:

charged,
summonsed, and/or
prosecuted

in connection with the robbery offences identified above for each year.

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.

The number of convictions resulting from those prosecutions, if held.

Any crime prevention guidance, intelligence assessments or internal communications produced since January 2021 concerning robberies or thefts linked to Pokemon cards or trading card products.

Where it is not possible to search specifically for "Pokemon cards", please provide information relating to trading card products, collectable card games, or specialist card retailers where available.

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

Following receipt of your request, I can confirm that searches were undertaken within Gloucestershire Constabulary in order to identify and locate the relevant information.

Unfortunately, there is no central register for this information and no way to retrieve the information by way of direct electronic searches. The whilst the Constabulary records robberies and burglaries, there is no set filter for specialist trading card shops nor Pokemon.

In order to obtain the requested information a manual review of each recorded incident and associated crime would have to be undertaken. For the requested time period, using the most applicable search criteria available, there were 3,264 recorded crimes for a non-dwelling burglary. In order to retrieve the requested information, it would be necessary to manually review each record as only way of trying to determine whether any relevant information is held. It is estimated that the manual review process would take 272 hours with 5 minutes being spent per crime record. 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 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 – Advice and Assistance

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.

However, I am able to suggest that you request the number of recorded incidents which feature a requested key word. For example, you may wish to request the number of reported incidents which mention "trading card".

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