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

Our reference: FOI_26_0741
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 06/10/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request for: 26_0741

On 04/08/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

for each calendar year 2021–2025, or financial years 2021/22–2025/26 if that is how the data is held (please state which basis is used). Counts based on the date on which the offence was recorded are acceptable.

This request is for aggregate counts only, drawn from your crime recording system. No manual review of individual crime records or case files is required. For the purposes of this request, "structured code" means a structured modus operandi (MO), method-of-entry, attack-method, asset-type, or equivalent recording code.

(a) Vehicle-enabled crime against business/commercial premises — please provide, separately:
   a. The number of recorded Burglary (Business and Community) offences where a structured code indicates a vehicle was used to breach the premises; and
   b. The number of recorded Robbery of Business Property offences where a structured code indicates a vehicle was used to breach the premises.

   If your system cannot readily separate these two classifications, a single combined count for (a) is acceptable, provided you state that the figure is combined.

   Where a structured premises- or asset-type code allows retail premises to be identified separately, please also provide the retail-premises subset. If no such distinction can readily be made, the broader business/commercial premises count is acceptable, provided the scope of the figure is stated.

(b) ATM-targeted crime: the number of recorded offences, under whichever classification your force uses to record attacks on automatic teller machines (e.g. Theft, Burglary, Criminal Damage or Robbery of Business Property, as applicable),

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.

where a structured code indicates that a vehicle was used — whether to breach the premises, to physically attack the ATM, or to remove or attempt to remove it.

(c) EV charging infrastructure: the number of recorded Criminal Damage offences where a structured code indicates damage to an electric vehicle charge point caused by vehicle impact. If this cannot be identified from structured codes without reviewing individual records, please state that this information is not retrievable from structured fields. No alternative or keyword-based figure is requested for this part.

(d) Only where the information requested in (a) and/or (b) cannot be retrieved using structured codes, please instead provide, for each year, the number of distinct recorded offences returned by a free-text search of MO fields, crime notes or equivalent searchable fields for one or more of the following terms: "ram raid", "ram-raid", "ramraid", "rammed the shutter", "rammed the door", "drove through the shopfront", "drove through the shop front", "vehicles used to gain access" and "vehicles used in the commission of the crime". If your system cannot de-duplicate records matching more than one search term, raw hit counts by term are acceptable, provided you clearly state that records may be counted more than once. No manual validation or review of the returned records is requested, and I accept that the results may contain false positives or incidents outside the intended scope, provided that limitation is clearly stated in your response. If searching all fields would exceed the cost limit, a search of the MO/method field alone is acceptable. A single combined count covering both (a) and (b) is acceptable where the search cannot distinguish between them.

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

Unfortunately, there is no central register for this information, nor is there a means of retrieving it through electronic searches alone.

A search was conducted for all substantiated crimes recorded within the requested date range and subsequently filtered using the suggested keywords within the Modus Operandi (MO) free-text fields. This approach returned 1,005 crime records; however, the filtering process proved to be insufficiently accurate.

For example, a search for the term “EV” would return any occurrence of those letters, including where they appear within other words such as “several” or “believed”. Similarly, a search for the phrase “rammed the shutter” would identify records containing the word “shutter”, regardless of whether it related to the circumstances being sought.

As a result, the only reliable method of determining whether relevant information is held, and subsequently retrieving that information, would be to manually review each individual

crime record to assess whether the keywords have been used in the appropriate context. It is also likely that relevant records may not be identified through keyword searches alone, meaning some results could be missed.

Given the volume of records requiring manual examination, the work necessary to locate, review, and extract any relevant information would significantly exceed the 18-hour cost limit prescribed under the Freedom of Information Act.

Please see below for suggestions on how you may be able to 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.

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