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

Our reference: FOI_26_1068
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 23/11/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request for: 26_1068

On 09/11/2026 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 regarding bicycle thefts for the past three full financial years (2023/24, 2024/25, and 2025/26):

1) The total number of bicycles reported stolen in your policing area during each of the past three financial years (broken down by financial year).

2) Of those reported stolen, the total number of bicycles that were subsequently recovered by the police in each financial year (broken down by financial year).

3) Please provide a breakdown of this data (both thefts and recoveries) by policing district, borough, or town within your force's jurisdiction.

If determining the number of 'recovered' bicycles would push this request over the cost/time limit (Section 12), please provide the data for Question 1 and Question 3 (reported thefts by district) as a priority, and advise on how Question 2 could be narrowed down to remain within the statutory limit.

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

Following receipt of your request, a search was conducted of the Constabulary's crime recording database for the following offence code, as stated in your clarification e-mail to us: 044/00 - Theft or Unauthorised Taking of Pedal Cycle. 1934 records were returned. Unfortunately, to determine an answer for Q2 of your request, I would be required to manually search the records, therefore, Section 12 of the Act is engaged as I confidently estimate that this would exceed the 18 hours allowed by the Freedom of Information Act.

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.

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.

Q1

Home Office Offence	Financial Year			
	23/24	24/25	25/26	Total
Theft of p/cycle	722	570	642	1934
Total	722	570	642	1934

Q3

Local Policing Area (LPA)	Financial Year			
	23/24	24/25	25/26	Total
Cheltenham LPA	320	218	189	727
Cotswolds LPA	29	18	19	66
Forest LPA	17	23	21	61

Gloucester LPA	270	236	329	835
Stroud LPA	48	32	47	127
Tewkesbury LPA	33	37	34	104
Unclassified LPA	4	6	3	13
Total	721	570	642	1933

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 Commission's Office
4th Floor, No.3 Circle Square
5 Hawkshaw Street
Manchester
M1 7BL

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer
Gloucestershire Constabulary