



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 2025/28789

Dear requester,

Thank you for your recent request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at, **Section 1(1) (a)**, is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held. The second duty at, **Section 1 (1) (b)**, is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held.

The information that you are seeking is in relation to the following:

REQUEST

Dear Gwent Police,

I am requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act, relating to vehicle thefts in your force area from 1st January 2020 to the most recent available data in 2025:

Q1. The number of recorded vehicle thefts (theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle – Home Office offence code 48), broken down by calendar year (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 to date).

Q2. The number of those vehicles that were subsequently recovered, broken down by year if available.

Q3. The five most commonly stolen vehicle makes and models across the full period (2020–2025 to date).

Q4. If available, the three most common location types where vehicle thefts occurred (e.g. on-street, driveway, car park).

Q5. If held, the top three postcode districts in your force area with the highest number of vehicle thefts across the period (2020–2025 to date), including total theft numbers for each.

If this request exceeds the cost limit, please prioritise questions 1, 3 and 5, and let me know how it could be refined.



RESPONSE

The following data has been obtained on all crimes recorded between the 1st January 2020 and the 31st July 2025 under the offence titles of theft of a vehicle, and unauthorised taking of motor vehicle. This data is accurate as of the 14th August 2025.

Q1.

Year	Total
2020	677
2021	723
2022	950
2023	1087
2024	1102
2025	598

Q2,3,4. Please note that in order to find out any part of the requested information, a manual trawl would need to be conducted on all crimes recorded between the 1st January 2020 and the 31st July 2025 under the offence titles of theft of a vehicle, and unauthorised taking of motor vehicle. For 2020 alone there were 677 such offences recorded, it would take 10 minutes per record to gather the requested information, which would be over the 18 hours and therefore exempt on time. ($677 \times 10 / 60 = 112 +$ hours.) Please find Section 12 applied below.

Section 12 – Excess Cost

The exemption applicable to the information you have requested for this question can be found at Section 12(1) of the Act and this refusal notice is issued under Section 17.

Section 12(1) “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.”

In the case of a police force, the appropriate limit is set at £450, which is calculated at £25 per hour (i.e. 18 hours). Gwent Police would have to conduct a manual search to find and extract the information for this question. This would take more than 18 hours of staff time therefore we are unable to answer this question and the exemption is engaged.

We appreciate that you may be disappointed on this occasion that we are unable to provide the requested information. However, under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we have a duty to assist you in relation to refining your request, where we may be able to answer some of your questions.



Q5. The following shows the top 3 wards in the requested time period that recorded the total highest numbers of theft of a vehicle, and unauthorised taking of motor vehicle.

Ward	Year					
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
STOW HILL	21	14	22	25	26	18
PILGWENLLY	28	29	26	29	31	15
LLISWERRY	21	15	31	43	35	29

Please note, every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.

Freedom of Information Act is a public disclosure regime, not a private regime. Any information disclosed under the Act is thereafter deemed to be in the public domain, and therefore freely available to the public and will be published on the Gwent Police website.

If, upon receiving a response to a freedom of information request, you are unhappy with the outcome, you may request an internal review. **This should be made within 40 working days of the initial response.**

Please direct any internal review requests to FOI@gwent.police.uk

You have the right to request an appeal from the Information Commissioners Office about your Freedom of Information request, if you are dissatisfied with your internal review response.

ICO Contact Details:

The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113

Web: www.ico.org.uk

Thank you for your interest in Gwent Police.