



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_25_0157
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 06/03/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0157

On 06/02/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am writing to make a request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Could you please supply me with the following information concerning HMP Wandsworth as outlined below.

- Could you please share with me data contained in reported incidents (e.g. in STORM's database) which contain the words 'vehicle plates', 'vehicle registration plates' or 'vehicle number plates' and 'cloned/cloning'.
- Could I have the data for these times frames annually from 09/10/2019 until 09/10/2024
- Please can you share information on the nature of each incident and the outcome (if charges were made).
- Please share your findings that are completed within the time and spending allocation given.

*By 'vehicle number plate cloning/ car cloning' I am referring to vehicle identity theft where criminals clone motorists vehicle plates and sometimes go on to rack up fines.

I would like the above information to be provided to me electronically if possible (should you want paper documents, you can specify as such, but be prepared for it to be rejected on cost/timing grounds).

If this request is too wide or unclear, I would be grateful if you could contact me on xxxxxxxxxxxxxx or by email at xxxxxxxxxxxx as I understand that under the Act, you are required to advise and assist requesters.

If any of this information is already in the public domain, please can you direct me to it, with page references and URLs if necessary.

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under the Section 16 obligations of the Act, as to how I can refine my request.

If the release of any of this information is prohibited on the grounds of breach of confidence, I ask that you supply me with copies of the confidentiality agreement and remind you that information should not be treated as confidential if such an agreement has not been signed.

I understand that you are required to respond to my request within the 20 working days after you receive this letter. I would be grateful if you could confirm in writing that you have received this request.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me via email or phone and I will be very happy to clarify what I am asking for and discuss the request, my details are outlined below.

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

Unfortunately, there is no way of electronically searching for the information you have requested. A manual review of 2,517 incidents recorded within the time frame requested with the keywords of the following 'vehicle plates', 'vehicle registration plates' or 'vehicle number plates' and 'cloned/cloning' would need to be conducted. This manual review would exceed the 18 hours as prescribed by Section 12 of 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.

Under Section 16 duty to assist, a search can be conducted of the Crime Recording System for specific offences if you refer to the link below for the Home Office Crime Recording Rules

[Home Office Crime Recording Rules for frontline officers and staff - GOV.UK](#)

Once you have referred to this link and confirmed which offences you require a search to be conducted and to include a search for property item of vehicle accessory part|number plate|.

If this would assist, please submit a new FOI.

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