



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_0183

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 02/10/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0183

On 13/02/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

- 1) From 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024 - How many instances have there been of a child being taken into Police Protection in your force?
- 2) For each instance, please provide the length of time in hours that the child remained in Police Protection.
- 3) We are also keen to understand if any children have been subject to multiple instances of Police Protection over the stated period. As such, from the 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024 how many individual children have been subject to Police Protection? For each child, please tell us the number of times they were subject to police protection in the given period
- 4) What are the current arrangements, within your force, to appropriately accommodate a child under Police Protection? For example, where do children sleep or eat when at the Police station awaiting suitable accommodation.

On 27/03/2025, you then amended the request:

We previously sent you an FOI (FOI-4910-25-5300-000) relating to the Police Protection power of Sec 46 of the Children's Act 1989, 'where a Police Officer has reasonable grounds to believe a child is likely to suffer significant harm, they may remove the child to suitable accommodation' that we have not yet received a response to. From correspondences with other forces, we understand that question 2 and 3 specifically may require a lot of manual review that may exceed the appropriate limit of cost.

We would therefore be extremely grateful if you might be able to provide a response solely to question 1 "From 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024 - How many instances have there been of a child being taken into Police Protection in your force?"

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

I can confirm that for the period of 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024 there are 12 instances where the Police Protection Power under S.46 of the Children's Act 1989 has been used.

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