



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_25_0354
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 06/06/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0354

On 28/03/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

We are working towards an estimate of group-based contact child sexual exploitation. To do this we are counting the number of people who have been sentenced for such crimes that would fall into this category.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, would you be able to provide us with the number of cases in your area that have involved more than two people convicted of child sexual exploitation offences that have involved contact rather than just indecent images of children over the last 20 years? If possible can you provide these broken down by year?

Could you also provide names of significant operations in your area that have sought to bring people to justice for these types of crimes (equivalents of Stovewood, Bullfinch or Sanctuary in England) and any numbers for convictions secured from these investigations – again in the last 20 years?

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

Unfortunately there is no central register for this information and no way to retrieve the information by way of electronic searches. There is no code for “group-based child sexual exploitation”. The only way of trying to determine whether any relevant information is held and to retrieve that information would be to manually review each child sexual exploitation and child sexual activities for the last 20 years to establish if any of these fit the definition of group based offending. This would involve the review of hundreds of records and would therefore take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by the Freedom of Information 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.

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