



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_25_0378

E-mail: FOI
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Direct dial: 01452 754304

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Date: 13/05/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0378

On 03/04/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

- 1) How many incidents reported to you in the below timeframes involved the social media app Yubo*?
 - 1st January 2020 to 31st of December 2020
 - 1st January 2021 to 31st of December 2021
 - 1st January 2022 to 31st of December 2022
 - 1st January 2023 to 31st of December 2023
 - 1st January 2024 to 31st of December 2024
 - 1st January 2020 to 30th of April 2025
- 2) How many incidents reported to you in the below timeframes involved the social media app Yubo and people under the age of 18?
 - 1st January 2020 to 31st of December 2020
 - 1st January 2021 to 31st of December 2021
 - 1st January 2022 to 31st of December 2022
 - 1st January 2023 to 31st of December 2023
 - 1st January 2024 to 31st of December 2024
 - 1st January 2020 to 30th of April 2025
- 3) How many incidents reported to you in the below timeframes involved the social media app Yubo and sexual and/or grooming crimes?
 - 1st January 2020 to 31st of December 2020
 - 1st January 2021 to 31st of December 2021
 - 1st January 2022 to 31st of December 2022
 - 1st January 2023 to 31st of December 2023

- 1st January 2024 to 31st of December 2024
- 1st January 2020 to 30th of April 2025

4) How many incidents reported to you in the below timeframes involved the social media app Yubo and sexual and/or grooming crimes committed by someone over the age of 18?

- 1st January 2020 to 31st of December 2020
- 1st January 2021 to 31st of December 2021
- 1st January 2022 to 31st of December 2022
- 1st January 2023 to 31st of December 2023
- 1st January 2024 to 31st of December 2024
- 1st January 2020 to 30th of April 2025

Clarification

Upon explanation of the Constabulary's systems, you confirmed that you were content for the following search to be carried out in response to your request above:

In order to provide as much of the information you have requested as possible, the most appropriate search would be to conduct a free text search of the MOs of Crimes recorded for the term 'Yubo'. It will then be possible to retrieve the offence recorded and whether the victim or offender were under 18 or 18 and over.

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 a search has been conducted of crimes recorded from 01/01/2020 to 30/04/2025 whereby the term 'Yubo' was present in the MO.

This search has resulted in just 3 crimes in the time period requested. I can confirm that they involved 1 x victim that was under 18 and 2 x victims that were aged 18 or over.

Given the very low number of crimes involved, if any further details of the above 3 crimes were disclosed, it is highly likely that individuals could be identified.

Consideration has to be made regarding any information that is already known to members of the public and/or in the public domain that combined with information disclosed under the FOI legislation could identify individuals. Therefore, although there is a legitimate interest in disclosing information surrounding this type of offence, any such

disclosure cannot override the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the individuals involved.

Section 17 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.

With regard to the disclosure of any further information, the following exemption applies:

Section 40(2) Personal Information

Section 40(2) applies to third party personal data. This would not be released under the Freedom of Information Act unless there is a strong public interest. The disclosure of any information which could lead to the identification of an individual would breach the Data Protection Principles contained within the Data Protection Act 2018, namely the first principle which states that personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to individuals

This exemption is absolute and class based therefore I am not required to apply either the public interest test or harm test in disclosure.

In accordance with the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this part of your request.

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