



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_0415

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 12/05/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0415

On 15/04/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

- a) The number of cases with a 'CSE flag' applied for the calendar years 2020 - 2024.
- b) A breakdown by ethnicity of perpetrators for those cases applied a CSE flag.
- c) The number of "live" group-based CSE investigations led by your force for the years 2020 - 2024, including those progressing through the criminal justice system. "Group based", in this context, means those crimes involving two or more offenders. If possible, broken down by the number of individuals in each "group"/gang.
- d) The number of safeguarding referrals received 2020 - 2024 for children because of sexual exploitation concerns.
- e) The number of Child Abduction Warning Notices (CAWN) issued to adults 2014 - 2025, and a breakdown by ethnicity of those presented with one.

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

With regards to part C of your request, 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 25 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.

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.

Section 16 – Duty to assist

Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act, provides the opportunity to assist the applicant with any suggestions or variation that may allow a search to be undertaken within the cost constraints of Section 12 of the Act.

Gloucestershire Constabulary may be able to provide the following:

- The number of crimes recorded during the period which were recorded as Child Sexual Exploitation.
- The ethnicity of offenders linked to the crimes above.
- The number of Child Abduction Warning Notices recorded during the period. Please be advised that we may not be able to provide the ethnicity of the person linked as this would likely require manual review, and may therefore exceed the appropriate cost limit, engaging the Section 12 refusal. This can only be determined should a new request be submitted.

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