



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_0420

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 15/05/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2025_0420

On 14/04/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I am writing to request the contact details of the person or department responsible for managing your organisation's energy contracts and procurement.

We are currently conducting a nationwide review into the mismanagement of energy billing across the sector. Our findings show that around 98% of businesses are being incorrectly charged — including unnecessary Climate Change Levy (CCL) charges and overpaid VAT — due to exemptions not being properly applied.

To support this analysis and determine whether any corrections or refunds may be applicable, I would also be grateful if you could provide a copy of a recent electricity and gas bill (redacted where necessary) for review.

Please do let me know if there are any specific procedures to follow in making this request or if you require further information from my side.

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

For contact details regarding energy contracts and procurement details please see the link below.

[Procurement \(Contracts\) | Devon & Cornwall Police](#)

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.

The following exemption applies:

Section 43 – Commercial Interests

This exemption is qualified and class based and therefore a public interest test is required.

Factors favouring Disclosure

Where public funds are being spent, there is a public interest in accountability and justification.

Factors favouring Non-Disclosure

It would harm the ability of the Constabulary to negotiate contracts if information in relation to these contracts were released. It would enable potential contractors to negotiate at a disadvantage to the Constabulary and may also give companies the ability to drive contract costs up.

The Constabulary are likely to want to maintain current costs and may be at a negotiating disadvantage when other individuals are able to compare costs. This would reduce the overall cost effectiveness of the service and impair local control of costs. Equally, the environment of competitiveness may encourage a price war, driving prices down which could in turn compromise the quality of the product.

Releasing information of this nature could also result in the Force being unable to keep costs down.

Balance Test

With regards to Section 43, the Act states that information is exempt if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it). On balance, the damage incurred by release of this information, including the possibility of increased public expenditure in the future, outweighs the benefit of accountability for public funds.

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