



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_25_0437
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 04/06/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0437

On 20/04/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Please provide copies of all meeting agendas, minutes and papers referencing the decision to close the mounted section of Gloucestershire constabulary.

If responding to this request would take you over the cost limit, please restrict the meetings to board meetings only.

On 20/05/2025 a PIT Extension email was sent.

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

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 negotiated, there is a public interest in accountability and justification.

Factors favouring Non-Disclosure

To disclose this information would harm the ability of Gloucestershire Constabulary to negotiate contracts if the information in relation to those 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, and could affect any negotiations which are ongoing with regards to the closure of the mounted section.

Balance Test

In conclusion the exemption is engaged and we have considered the balance of the public interest. We recognise that there is a strong public interest in Gloucestershire Constabulary being open and transparent. The interests of the Force may be jeopardised if information relating to sensitive commercial information about business, financial or contractual issues are disclosed.

With regards to Section 43 – commercial interests, 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 & justification of the use of public funds.

Once the closure of the mounted section has been completed, we may be able to disclose further information, however, until this time the above exemption is engaged.

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