



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_25_0443
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 15/07/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0443

On 22/04/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

I am writing to request the following information relating to Facial Matching Checks conducted by His Majesty's Passport Office on behalf of your force:

- A copy of any policy held by your force governing the use of these checks, or any Data Protection Impact Assessment regarding these checks as used by your force
- A copy of any breakdown for the crime types linked to the searches requested by your force (whatever level this is held at, whether specific offence, offence types, etc) for calendar year 2024
- The number of requests to HMPO for facial matching checks by your force in 2024, and 2025 as of the date of this request

I would like all document sent electronically please. Under Section 16 of the Act I also ask that if this request cannot be fulfilled under the legislation, that you offer advice and assistance to help the request comply with the act. I look forward to your response within 20 working days.

A PIT Extension email was sent on 21/05/2025.

A further PIT Extension email was sent on 19/06/2025.

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

There is no central register for the requested information within questions 2 and 3. In order to identify and retrieve the requested information a manual review of every crime, case

and custody records which has been recorded and we would need to contact all of Gloucestershire Officers for their Pocket Notebooks to ascertain whether if they have submitted a request to HMPO for facial matching. This manual review would exceed the 18 hours as prescribed by 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.

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.

For question 1 of your request this is no information held.

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