



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_25_0455
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 23/05/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0455

On 24/04/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Hello,

I am writing to request the following information. Please can the information be broken down for each year between January 2020 - April 2025:

1) How many cases have been recorded by your force between January 2020 and April 2025 for the following offences:

disclosing, threatening to disclose, private sexual photographs and films with or without intent to cause distress

Sharing or threatening to share intimate photograph or film Voyeurism

2) Can you provide any further information about these cases and include the outcome of each case in 1)?

3) The number of cases involving threats to share intimate photographs or films in which alleged victims were unwilling or unable to contribute to police efforts to prosecute the alleged offender, between January 2020 and April 2025.

Can you include the outcome and/or reason why the alleged victim did not continue with police efforts to prosecute the alleged offender.

4) The number of convictions and outcomes made each year between 2020 - 2025 for the following offences:

Disclosing, threatening to disclose, private sexual photographs and films with or without intent to cause distress

Sharing or threatening to share intimate photograph or film

Voyeurism

5) The number of convictions involving threats to share intimate photographs or films by repeat offenders.

Can you include the outcome for each conviction

6) The number of reports of threats to share photographs or films which show, or appear to show, someone in an intimate state - This would be a breach of Section 188(4) of the Online Safety Act 2023

Can you include the outcome of each report

Clarification email was sent on 29/04/2025 with the following:

Please are you able refer to the Home Office Crime Recording Rules (see link below) to confirm which specific offences you require for the search?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counting-rules-for-recorded-crime>

A response to the clarification was received on 29/04/2025 with the following:

Please can you provide all recorded outcomes for the following HOCR codes, between January 2020 and April 2025:

- 88C HO Class 175/08,
- 88C HO Class 088/15,
- and 88E

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

Unfortunately, it is not possible to electronically search for the reason why the alleged victims did not continue with the police efforts to prosecute the alleged offender. In order to identify and retrieve the requested information a manual review of over 209 crimes with the outcome of Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action) would be required to ascertain the reason why. This manual review would take longer than the 18 hours as prescribed by Section 12 of 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.

Providing Information Outside of the Act

By way of assistance and although excess cost removes the Force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, we have supplied the information relevant to your request which has already been retrieved. We trust this is helpful but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

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.

Following receipt of your request, initial searches were conducted of the Crime Recording System for substantiated crimes recorded between 01/01/2020 – 23/04/2025 where the offence is listed as one of the following:

88C - 088/15 - Sharing or threatening to share intimate photograph or film

88C - 175/08 - Share photograph or film of person in intimate state without consent

88E - 088/09 – Exposure

88E – 088/10 - Voyeurism

88E – 088/12 - Additional Voyeurism offences (Upskirting)

88E – 088/14 – Sending Photographs etc or film of genitals

A filter has then been applied for the recorded outcomes.

The results are as follows:

Outcomes	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
Action undertaken by another body/agency			2	5	4		11
Charged/Summoned	10	11	19	17	11	5	73

Diversionary		2					2
Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	12	24	22	28	40	10	136
Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	21	38	27	32	67	20	205
Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest (police decision)	2	3			2	6	13
Investigation complete - no suspect identified	8	19	32	47	72	10	188
Out of court (formal)	1		2		1		4
Out of court (informal)		1	1	2	4	1	9
Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest		3	5	7	5	1	21
Total	54	101	110	138	206	53	662

Please note for questions 4 & 5

Please note that the Constabulary only holds data in relation to the number of individuals charged/summoned for a particular offence. The ultimate outcome of these offences depends on what happens at court i.e. whether the offender is found guilty (convicted) or not. This information comes from the court results which do not come within our systems. Hence we record the detection disposals for each case but do not have the ultimate conviction data.

Therefore any information relating to the outcome of a case, the length of sentence or whether any appeal was made is not held by the constabulary, but by the HM Courts Service. Please find a link below to their website:

www.justice.gov.uk/

6.

Outcome	Sharing or threatening to share intimate photograph or film	Total
2024		
Action undertaken by another body/agency	1	1
Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	7	7
Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	28	28
Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest (police decision)	2	2
Investigation complete - no suspect identified	15	15
Out of court (formal)	1	1
2025		
Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	5	5

Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	10	10
Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest (police decision)	2	2
Investigation complete - no suspect identified	4	4
Total	75	75

Please note that the Home Offence Code which was provided in the clarification only came into force in 2024, the previous Home Office Code was 008/71 – Disclose/threaten to disclose private sexual photographs and films with intent to cause distress.

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