



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_25_0460

E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 29/04/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0460

On 28/04/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I would like to request the following information as a freedom of information request.

By 'paedophile hunter' I mean a group of people or individual who gather their own evidence of alleged paedophiles.

1. In how many cases was the evidence provided by 'paedophile hunters' admissible as evidence for each of the years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024?
2. How many people were charged because of evidence supplied to the police from 'paedophile hunters' in each of the years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024?
3. In how many cases were the evidence not admissible for each of the years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024?
4. How many cases resulted in a mistrial because of evidence submitted from a 'paedophile hunter' for each of the years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024?
5. What percentage of cases of the crime of meeting a child following sexual grooming involved evidence from a 'pedophile hunter' for each of the years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024?

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

Unfortunately, it's not possible to electronically search for the information you have requested.

There is no tag/field on the crime recording system that may denote that evidence of the offence was provided by 'paedophile hunters'. In order to ascertain if such evidence was provided to the Police, a manual review of the MOs and electronic crime enquiries of all crimes would need to be conducted. As this would involve manually reviewing thousands of records for the 5 year period requested, this would clearly take far longer than the 18 hours 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.

Under Section 16, duty to assist, I can confirm that a search can be conducted of crimes recorded with specific offences along with a free text search for specific terms recorded in the MOs. A subsequent manual review will still be required to ascertain if the crime fell within the remit of your request.

If such a search would still be useful, please submit a new FOI request to foi@gloucestershire.police.uk confirming which offences you are interested in from the [Home Office Crime Recording Rules](#) and which specific terms you want us to search the MOs regarding.

Please note that, depending on the number of crimes retrieved from such a search, the request could still attract the exemption at Section 12 of the Act.

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