



Your reference: N/A  
Our reference: FOI\_25\_0462  
E-mail: FOI  
@gloucestershire.police.uk  
Direct dial: 01452 754304  
Postal Address: As above  
Date: 27/05/2025

Dear

**Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI\_25\_0462**

On 29/04/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information:

1. The number of drivers stopped, fined, or prosecuted for offences related to illegal or excessively noisy exhaust systems, under the Road Traffic Act 1988 and the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, for each of the calendar years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 to date.
2. The number of Section 59 warnings (Police Reform Act 2002) issued for vehicles causing alarm, distress, or annoyance due to exhaust noise, over the same time period.
3. If available, the top five locations (e.g., streets, towns, areas) within your force area where the highest number of such offences or warnings were recorded.
4. If available, the highest recorded decibel readings from any enforcement equipment (e.g., sound meters) used to measure vehicle noise.

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

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

With regard to question 2, any warnings or words of advice would be recorded in officers pocket notebooks rather than as specific offences on the crime recording system. As such, in order to ascertain if any such warnings have been given, all police officers would need to be canvassed. This would clearly take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of the Freedom of Information 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, I can confirm the following 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.

1. I can confirm that a search has been conducted for any of the following offences that have been recorded from 01/01/2019 to date:

- RC86570 - Cause use of a motor cycle with an exhaust system marked not for road use
- RC86392 - Cause use of a motor vehicle in a manner as to cause excessive noises
- RC86365 - Cause use of a motor vehicle with no silencer fitted
- RC86368 - Cause use of a vehicle fitted with an altered exhaust system

- RC86366 - Cause use of a motor vehicle with defective exhaust system/silencer
- RC86367 - Cause use of motor vehicle with exhaust inefficient / not maintained
- RC86870 - Permit use of motor cycle with an exhaust system marked not for road use
- RC86692 - Permit use of a motor vehicle in a manner as to cause excessive noise
- RC86665 - Permit use of a motor vehicle with no silencer fitted
- RC86668 - Permit use of a vehicle with an altered exhaust system
- RC86667 - Permit use of a vehicle with an inefficient exhaust system
- RC86666 - Permit use of motor vehicle with defective exhaust system / silencer
- RC86270 - Use a motor cycle on a road fitted with an exhaust system / silencer which did not comply with the regulation
- RC86092 - Use a motor vehicle on a road in a manner as to cause excessive noise
- RC86065 - Use a motor vehicle on a road which was not fitted with an exhaust system including a silencer
- RC86066 - Use a motor vehicle on a road with a defective exhaust system / silencer
- RC86068 - Use a motor vehicle on a road with silencer / exhaust system altered to increase the noise made
- RC86067 - Use a vehicle on a road with an exhaust system / silencer not maintained in a good and efficient working order.

The results are as follows:

| Offence Description                                                                                            | 2020     | 2021     | 2022     | 2023      | 2024     | 2025     | Total     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Use a motor cycle on a road fitted with an exhaust system / silencer which did not comply with the regulation  | 1        |          |          |           |          |          | 1         |
| Use a motor vehicle on a road which was not fitted with an exhaust system including a silencer                 |          |          | 1        | 1         | 1        |          | 3         |
| Use a motor vehicle on a road with a defective exhaust system / silencer                                       | 1        | 1        |          | 1         |          |          | 3         |
| Use a motor vehicle on a road with silencer / exhaust system altered to increase the noise made                | 3        | 3        | 1        | 9         | 2        | 3        | 21        |
| Use a vehicle on a road with an exhaust system / silencer not maintained in a good and efficient working order | 2        | 2        | 1        | 5         |          |          | 10        |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                                                   | <b>7</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>16</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>38</b> |

3. The five locations with the highest number of the above offences are as follows:

A38  
Corrinium Avenue  
Great Western Road  
Princess Elizabeth Way  
Southgate Street

4. I can confirm that decibel readings are not recorded.

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](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)

Post –

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer  
Gloucestershire Constabulary