



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_25_0477

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_0477

On 07/05/2025 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. Does your force have an established policy or procedure regarding arranging professional cleaning of a property following a forensic investigation (e.g., after fingerprint dusting, bodily fluid collection, or other invasive evidence-gathering activities)?
 - a. If yes, please provide a copy of the current policy or procedure.
2. For each of the past six calendar years (2020-2025), please provide:
 - a. The number of cases where professional cleaning was arranged by the force following the investigation.
 - b. The types of location (eg residential property) for which trauma cleaning was arranged
 - c. The types of incidents where trauma cleaning was arranged (eg homicide, suicide)
 - d. Total costs for the trauma cleaning jobs
3. Has your force received any formal complaints from victims or property owners regarding the condition of their property after a forensic investigation in the same period? If so, please provide:
 - a. The number of complaints per year.
 - b. A summary of the nature of complaints (if available).

4. Which companies or contractors has your force used to carry out professional cleaning services following forensic investigations in the past five years?
5. In cases where your force did not arrange professional cleaning, is there a policy or guidance that leaves responsibility for cleaning to the victim or property owner? Please provide details or a copy of this guidance if it exists.
6. Has your force encountered situations in the past five years where professional cleaning should have been arranged but was not? If so, please provide a summary of any internal reviews, findings, or actions taken as a result.

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 central register of when there may have been a requirement to arrange professional cleaning of a property following forensic investigation. There are several departments that may have arranged such a process and each would need to be canvassed to review investigations over the 5+ years requested.

It has been estimated that this would 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.

1. No information held. The Constabulary does not have a specific policy regarding such a process.
2. Exempt as stated above.
3. No information held. I can confirm that the Constabulary has not received any such complaints.
4. Exempt as stated above.
5. No information held. The Constabulary does not have a specific policy regarding this.
6. No information held. Such an instance would like be investigated by the Professional Standards Department. They have confirmed that no relevant complaints have been 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

Post –

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

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer
Gloucestershire Constabulary