



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_25_0500
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 06/06/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0500

On 11/05/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Good afternoon,

Please can you provide the following information:

- 1) The number of unlicensed music events (illegal raves) that police have been called to in the past five calendar years (2019-2024).
- 2) The number of individuals arrested for attending or hosting an unlicensed music event in the past five years
- 3) The number of individuals who have been fined for attending or hosting an unlicensed music event in the past five years, and the total sum that has been collected in fines for that period.
- 4) The age of the youngest person arrested or fined at an unlicensed music event each year. Please specify if they were arrested or fined.
- 5) The number of under 18s recorded as being at an unlicensed music event each year.

Please break down the figures by calendar year.

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

The primary function of the Constabulary's Arrest Recording System is to assist the Constabulary in adhering to Code C of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. As such, its reporting function is limited. The system does not record detentions under specific offences under the Home Office Crime Recording Rules; instead it uses Reason for Arrest (RFA) Categories. Unfortunately, there is no single RFA for attending or hosting an unlicensed music event. Although it's possible to follow an arrest through to a recorded

crime and the police outcome per individual, it's not possible to retrieve electronic statistics. Therefore in order to ascertain if any relevant arrest information is recorded, a manual review of all arrest records would be required. In the year period of 10/05/2024 – 10/05/2025 there has been over 9,331 arrests recorded. This manual review would exceed the 18 hours as prescribed by Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

There is no opening code, result code or tags on the incident recording system for Unlicensed Music Events, and a manual review of all incidents would need to be conducted to ascertain whether the incident holds any relevant information regarding if an unlicensed music event occurred, whether any fines were issued and the number of under 18s which were recorded as being at the unlicensed music event.

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, if you omit questions 2, 3, 4 and 5, I can confirm that it may be possible to conduct a free text search of the incidents for specific terms e.g. “unlicensed music event”, “rave”, “UME”, or “party”, a manual review of any records retrieved would still be required to ascertain if the record is relevant to your request. As such, it is possible that such a search could result in the request being exempted under Section 12 of the Act.

If this would assist please submit a new FOI request with the specific terms you require for a search.

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