



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_25_0537
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 16/06/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0537

On 22/05/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Good afternoon,

As part of a PhD programme of research at the University of Central Lancashire, investigating risk factors for gang related activity and child criminal exploitation in young males, we are writing to request the following information. FOI requests have also been sent to all other police forces in England, and the project has been approved by the university ethics panel (reference number: SCIENCE 0028 Study_4_v3).

Please could you provide the following information and where possible, please can responses be split by gender (i.e. numbers of boys and girls).

In the past 12 months:

1. How many boys have been reported missing from home?
2. Of these missing from home cases, how many were missing for 3 days or longer?
3. How many boys are believed to be victims of criminal exploitation?
4. How many adults under the age of 25 are believed to be victims of criminal exploitation?
5. How many boys are believed to be involved in gangs?
6. How many adults under the age of 25 are believed to be involved in gangs?
7. How many boys have been arrested for knife offences?
8. How many adults under the age of 25 have been arrested for knife offences?
9. How many boys have been arrested for possession of crack cocaine?
10. How many boys have been arrested for possession of heroin?
11. How many adults under the age of 25 have been arrested for possession of crack cocaine?

12. How many adults under the age of 25 have been arrested for possession of heroin?

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

I have numbered your request for ease.

Unfortunately it is not possible to electronically search for the information requested for the questions 5 & 6. In order to identify the requested information a manual review of all person records and to review all information retained on the record to ascertain whether or not they are believed to be involved in gangs. This manual review would exceed the 18 hours as prescribed by the Freedom of Information Act.

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 Category for the offence(s) of: Possession of Crack Cocaine and Possession of Heroin you have stated above. 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 records would be required. 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, if you were to omit questions 5, 6, 9, 10, 11 & 12, we may be able to provide you with the rest of information requested.

If this would assist please submit a new FOI request.

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