



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_0617 & 25_0637

E-mail: FOI

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Direct dial: 01452 754304

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Date: 11/07/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0617 & 25_0637

On 18/06/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. Ethnicity of suspects charged in cases of multi-offender child sexual offences

What I'm requesting: Ethnicity data on suspects charged with a sexual offence or offences against a victim or victim aged under 18 at the time of the offence, where the case involved two or more offenders or suspected offenders, broken down as follows:

- Number of Asian suspects charged
- Number of Black suspects charged
- Number of White suspects charged
- Number of Other Ethnicity suspects charged
- Number of suspects charged where ethnicity is Unknown

Please indicate whether suspects' ethnicity is recorded based on self-defined ethnicity, ethnic appearance data or other criteria.

Timeframe: Suspects charged in the last three calendar years (January 2022 to January 2025). If that is not possible, please provide information on suspects charged in the last three financial years (March 2022 to March 2025). If that is not possible, please provide the most recent 12 months' of data that you can retrieve.

2. Ethnicity of suspects in ongoing cases of multi-offender child sexual offences

What I'm requesting: Ethnicity data on suspects in all cases involving two or more offenders or suspected offenders of sexual offences against a victim or victims aged under 18 at the time of the offence that were ongoing as of 17 June 2025, broken down as follows:

- Number of Asian suspects
- Number of Black suspects
- Number of White suspects
- Number of Other Ethnicity suspects
- Number of suspects where ethnicity is Unknown

Please indicate whether suspects' ethnicity is recorded based on self-defined ethnicity, ethnic appearance data or other criteria.

3. Ethnicity of charged suspects in cases flagged as group based child sexual exploitation

What I'm requesting: Ethnicity data on suspects charged in cases flagged as "group based child sexual exploitation", or the closest equivalent term used by your police force, broken down as follows:

- Number of Asian suspects charged
- Number of Black suspects charged
- Number of White suspects charged
- Number of Other Ethnicity suspects charged
- Number of suspects charged where ethnicity is Unknown

Please indicate whether suspects' ethnicity is recorded based on self-defined ethnicity, ethnic appearance data or other criteria.

Timeframe: Suspects charged in the last three calendar years (January 2022 to January 2025). If that is not possible, please provide information on suspects charged in the last three financial years (March 2022 to March 2025). If that is not possible, please provide the most recent 12 months' of data that you can retrieve.

On 24/06/2025 you sent a further email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Asylum status of suspects charged in cases of multi-offender child sexual offences

What I'm requesting: Asylum status of suspects charged with a sexual offence or offences against a child victim or victims, where the case involved two or more offenders or suspected offenders, broken down as follows:

- Number of suspects who were seeking asylum in the UK at the time of charge
- Number of suspects who were neither seeking asylum at the time of charge, nor were known to have previously sought asylum in the UK
- Number of suspects who had been granted asylum in the UK at the time of charge
- Number of suspects who had been refused asylum in the UK at the time of charge

Timeframe: Information on suspects charged in the last three calendar years (January 2022 to January 2025). If that is not possible, please provide information on suspects charged in the last three financial years (March 2022 to March 2025). If that is not possible, please provide the most recent 12 months' worth of data that you can retrieve.

Under the FOI legislation, for the purposes of Cost, your requests have been aggregated.

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

Unfortunately there is no central register for this information and no way to retrieve the information by way of electronic searches. With regards to your first request, there is no code to identify "multi-offender child sexual offences". The only way of trying to determine whether any relevant information is held and to retrieve that information would be to manually review each record that falls under "child sexual offences" for the time period to establish if any of these fit the definition of group based offending.

In respect of your second request, there is no field within Gloucestershire Constabulary's systems to record the asylum status of an individual, therefore the only way to determine if any relevant information is held would be to conduct a manual review of all offender records. Both of these searches would involve the review of hundreds of records and would take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by 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.

Section 16 – Duty to assist

Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act, provides the opportunity to assist the applicant with any suggestions or variation that may allow a search to be undertaken within the cost constraints of Section 12 of the Act.

In relation to Q3 of the first request only, Gloucestershire Constabulary may be able to provide the following:

- The number of crimes recorded during the period which were recorded as Child Sexual Exploitation.

- The ethnicity of offenders linked to the crimes above.

If this information would still be useful to you, you can resubmit the request for this question only.

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