



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_0654

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 23/07/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0654

On 30/06/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I am requesting the force's policy on the issue of custody photos of convicts.

Specifically:

- 1) Are custody photos published on the force's web site? Do they remain there indefinitely?
- 2) Are there restrictions on who custody photos are made available to? Can any member of the public request them? Can press organisations?
- 3) What criteria are used in determining the release/publication of a custody photo of a person charged with/convicted of an offence? Is there a minimum sentence length requirement for photo publication? Please include every requirement in your response.

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

- 1) Our force policy for releases published on our website which include custody images is for them to be removed after six months.

If the publishing of a custody image is due to a wanted appeal then this will be removed if and when the person is located.

- 2) We abide by the College of Policing's Media Relations Authorised Professional Practice (APP). The APP can be found here – [Media relations | College of Policing](#)

We may release/ publish an individual's custody image in a number of different circumstances, providing there's a legitimate policing purpose to do so. For instance, to

highlight a court outcome as a way of improving public confidence in the criminal justice system or if we need to locate a wanted or missing person (see APP for more details).

As well as providing custody images to bona fide members of the media, we may also publish them on our website and social media channels.

3) When we publish/release custody images of individuals to highlight court outcomes we only do so upon a guilty verdict – this may be following a guilty plea or after a conviction following trial.

There is no minimum sentence requirement however, if the convicted individual has not been remanded into custody we may choose not to publish/release their custody image for safeguarding reasons.

Media are asked to complete a form when requesting a custody photo we have not published/issued proactively ourselves.

We do not publish/release custody images of individuals who have been arrested or charged unless there's a legitimate policing purpose to do so, such as if they are wanted.

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