



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_0698

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 18/07/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0698

On 17/07/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The main purpose of this request is to gather data concerning illegal or black-market vape sellers within your police force's jurisdiction.

Note: An illegal or unregulated vape does not comply with UK regulations, often meaning it's not registered with the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), contains nicotine levels exceeding the legal limit (20mg/ml), or has a tank capacity larger than 2ml for single-use vapes. These products can also be dangerous because they may contain harmful substances or even illegal drugs like THC or Spice. Following the ban on disposable vapes in the UK, this definition will now also include single-use vapes.

Specifically-for each of the past 5 years (2020-2024), and partial data for 2025 if available-I am seeking anonymised data from your police force on the following:

1. The total number of sellers found to be in possession of illegal, unregulated or "black market" vape products.
2. The number of sellers who faced any form of legal action, including but not limited to warnings, fines, charges, or prosecutions.
3. The number of individuals formally prosecuted (i.e. individuals who were taken to court and faced criminal proceedings resulting in a conviction or ongoing trial).

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 s1, I can confirm that Gloucestershire Constabulary holds no relevant information.

This information is held by Trading Standards. Please see the below link which will take you directly to the Freedom of information page on the council's website.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/access-to-information/access-council-information/how-do-i-submit-my-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