



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_0700

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 24/07/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0700

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

My Reference: F0034/160725

Pursuant to section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act"), I hereby request the disclosure of recorded information held by Gloucestershire Constabulary ("the Authority") concerning offences that compromise passenger safety in relation to taxi, private hire vehicle (PHV), and Uber services.

This request is limited to offences occurring within the Authority's territorial jurisdiction, or where the Authority holds investigative or prosecutorial records, from 1 January 2020 to the present date (inclusive). The scope encompasses sexual offences as defined by the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (including, inter alia, rape under section 1, assault by penetration under section 2, sexual assault under section 3, and causing sexual activity without consent under section 4) and other safety-compromising offences (such as assault occasioning actual bodily harm contrary to section 47 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861, harassment pursuant to the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, or endangerment offences under sections 1 to 3 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 where passenger vulnerability is a factor). Such offences must involve an alleged perpetrator who is a licensed taxi or PHV driver (including those affiliated with Uber or analogous platforms), and the incident must be connected to the carriage of passengers (e.g., during a journey or in immediate proximity thereto).

In compliance with section 8(1) of the Act, this constitutes a valid request, and my details for correspondence are appended hereto.

Kindly furnish the following information, anonymised and aggregated as requisite to adhere to the Data Protection Act 2018 and to obviate any exemption under section 40(2) of the Act:

1. The aggregate number of reported incidents meeting the aforesaid criteria, delineated by calendar year (2020 to 2025, apportioned pro rata for the current annum).
2. A classification of the offences reported, comprising:
 - a) Sexual offences (with sub-classifications, e.g., rape, sexual assault by touching);
 - b) Non-sexual offences imperilling safety (with sub-classifications, e.g., physical assault, harassment, reckless driving).
3. Where feasible, a disaggregation by service category:
 - a) Hackney carriage (traditional taxi);
 - b) PHV unaffiliated with Uber;
 - c) Uber-affiliated PHV.
4. The dispositions of investigations, aggregated by offence category, including:
 - a) Instances where no further action ensued;
 - b) Instances culminating in charges preferred;
 - c) Instances resulting in convictions (specifying the convicted offence(s), if recorded);
 - d) Instances referred to the Crown Prosecution Service but discontinued.
 - e) Any statistical analyses, risk evaluations, or remedial protocols maintained by the Authority pertaining to such offences, redacted to excise personal or commercially sensitive data.

Should any element of this request invoke an exemption (e.g., section 12 regarding cost thresholds or section 31 concerning law enforcement prejudice), I solicit advice and assistance under section 16 of the Act, including proposals to circumscribe the request (e.g., prioritising items 1, 2, and 4 if item 3 exceeds limits).

The information is sought in electronic form (e.g., PDF or Excel) to the email address *infra*, within the 20 working days prescribed by section 10(1) of the Act. If elucidation is required, pray contact me forthwith.

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

Unfortunately, it is not possible to electronically retrieve the information you have requested.

Although the crime recording system can, and does, capture information surrounding the occupation of a victim and/or an offender, it is not possible to accurately report on this.

The occupation field within the system is free text and non-mandatory. As such, the field is not always completed. This field is held within the Person Record on the system and although this links to the Crime Record, it is only possible for the reporting function to retrieve the most recent occupation, which is likely to therefore be inaccurate. For example, a person could come to police notice in 2021 where the occupation was recorded as Administrator, and then again in 2024 and the occupation was recorded as Taxi Driver. The system would retrieve both crimes as occurring with the relevant person (i.e. the offender) having an occupation of Taxi Driver, which would be incorrect. The opposite is also possible; a person could come to police notice in 2021 with an occupation of Taxi Driver but in 2024, it is recorded as Administrator. In this example, neither crime would be retrieved from the search for an offender with an occupation of Taxi

Driver. It is also possible for the occupation to not be recorded at all, which obviously would not be retrieved from a search.

As such, in order to accurately provide any relevant information, a manual review of all crimes falling under the relevant Home Office Offence Groups, for the last 5 years, would be required to ascertain if we hold any information relating to crimes where the offender was a Taxi Driver. This would involve the review of thousands of records, which would far exceed the permitted time constraints, therefore Section 12 of the Act is applicable. This section does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimated that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit of 18 hours, equating to £450.00

You should consider this to be a refusal notice under Section 17 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 of the Act, unfortunately I am unable to provide any advice for how you could refine your request to come within the cost constraints of Section 12. Even if you reduce the time period, this will not reduce the number of crimes enough to make a manual review possible.

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