



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_0714

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 17/09/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0714

On 22/07/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Please provide any guidance/orders you have issued as a force to your officers over the policing of protests or displays of support concerning Palestine Action since the group's proscription came into effect.

I request any communications to officers concerning this covering the period between the date the proscription came into effect until the present date.

Please also disclose any communication from external, non-governmental organisations/groups concerning the proscription of Palestine Action from within this same time-frame.

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

Concerns have been raised in disclosing some of the requested information/documents.

Therefore, Section 31 Law Enforcement and Section 24 National Security is to be considered as part of the Public Interest Test. A Public Interest Test has been carried out to weigh up the reasons for and against disclosure of the information requested, to ensure the release is in the interest of the public as a whole and not just the applicant.

S24(1) National security
S31(1) Law Enforcement

The Harm Test process requires Gloucestershire Constabulary to consider any possible harm that might arise as a result of placing the requested information into the public domain. This process considers the potential harm to:

- Individuals
- The community as a whole
- Gloucestershire Constabulary and the wider policing service
- Other bodies

Evidence of Harm

FOIA is considered to be a release to the world as once the information is published the public authority has no control over what use is made of that information. Whilst not questioning the motives of the applicant it could be of use to those who seek to disrupt any police investigation as it would provide valuable intelligence to terrorists and/or extremists on the effectiveness of Counter Terrorism activity by an individual police force for arrests made specifically in relation to terrorism legislation.

Disclosure of the information would reveal specific strategies, rationale, intelligence and tactics in relation to the identification and policing of proscribed terrorist groups. This could be used by criminals, those with criminal intent, members of proscribed organisations, and terrorists to undermine and obstruct operational policing, as well as amend their current practices to evade detection. This would consequently be detrimental to the police's ability to ensure the law is enforced, offenders apprehended, public safety is maintained and threats to the security of the UK are identified and prevented.

Additionally, disclosure of information from multiple forces would result in patterns of police activity, tactical capabilities and operational planning in respect of terrorist proscription and operational planning in relation to the policing of proscribed groups, being identified. Identification via this mapping effect of what may appear less resourced or actively policed areas risks those areas becoming targets for individuals with criminal intent, to exploit. This undermines policing, increasing the risk of crime and threatens public safety. Given the information in question is directly relevant to counter terrorism strategy and policing of proscribed terrorist groups, this in turn impacts upon the overall security of the UK.

Finally, disclosure of information captured by this request would undermine the effectiveness of current and future police operations and proceedings. It would reveal details of police intelligence and strategy used to counter criminal activity and apprehend offenders.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure for S24:

The public are entitled to know public money is spent in areas of operational policing. Release of the requested information would facilitate transparency. It would also encourage public debate about how the police prevent and detect crime and uphold the law in terms of proscription of terrorist groups in order to protect the security interests of the UK.

Factors favouring non-disclosure for S24:

To disclose information would render security measures less effective by revealing details of individual force capabilities which could be put together to formulate a national picture of operational counter terrorism strategy. Taking into account the current security climate within the United Kingdom, no information that may aid a criminal, terrorist or proscribed organisation should be disclosed. To what extent this information may aid terrorism in the UK is not precisely known, but it is clear that a disclosure of information will have an impact on the force's ability to monitor and police proscribed terrorist groups and terrorists effectively, compromising the security of the UK.

Factors favouring disclosure for S31:

Disclosure of information would provide the public with better understanding of operational policing, increase public debate and provide information which may allow the public to take steps to better protect themselves. This awareness may also lead to more information being passed to police by the public as they become more alert to suspicious activity.

Factors favouring non-disclosure for S31:

By disclosing the requested information, law enforcement tactics would be compromised which would hinder the prevention and detection of crime specific to terrorism. More crime would be committed because members of proscribed terrorist organisations as well as terrorists more widely, would have knowledge of operational capability, tactics, strategy and intelligence which would allow them to operate more effectively as well as avoid detection. This places the public at a significant risk of harm, particularly in areas which may have been perceived to be more vulnerable than others as a result of the mapping effect explained within the harm. Any information which undermines operational law enforcement or places the public at risk is not in the public interest to disclose.

Balance test

The security of the country is paramount, and the police service will not divulge any information if to do so would place the safety of an individual, the public at large or the national security of the UK at risk. Whilst there is a public interest in transparency of policing and promotion of public debate to improve response, there is a far stronger public interest in safeguarding national security, the integrity of operational policing and keeping the public safe. For these reasons we believe that the balancing test for disclosing the information is not made out in this case. Therefore, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under section 17 (1) of the legislation.

Please find attached the documents we can release.

Please note that some of these documents have been redacted in line with the exemptions above.

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



Proscription

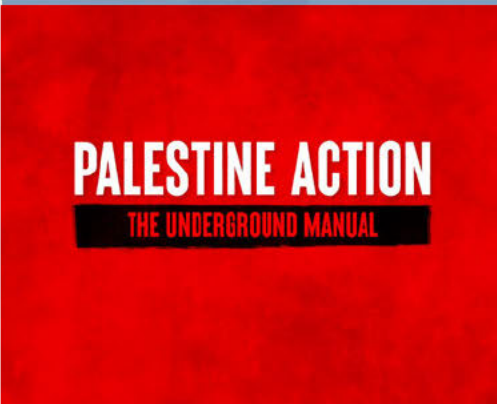
On 30 June 2025 a draft order was laid before Parliament to proscribe Palestine Action under the *Terrorism Act 2000*. If approved by Parliament, belonging to, inviting support for or displaying articles in a public place in a way that arouses suspicion of membership or support for the group will become a criminal offence.

Group Overview

Palestine Action (PAG) is a direct action network, co-founded in the UK on 30 July 2020. PAG’s strategy is focused on sustained direct action to disrupt, damage and destroy UK interests it believes are linked to the Israeli defence industry.

Over the past year, the seriousness of damage caused, and the use or threat of violence employed by PAG in the

Publication



THE UNDERGROUND MANUAL

Proscription Offences

If approved by Parliament, it is expected that from 05 July 2025 the following TACT offences will apply:

s.11 Terrorism Act 2000 - Membership of a proscribed organisation

- A person commits an offence if they belong to or profess to belong to Palestine Action.

s.12 Terrorism Act 2000 - Supporting a proscribed organisation

- A person commits an offence if they: invite support for Palestine Action; or express an opinion or belief that is specifically in support of Palestine Action and is reckless as to whether this expression would encourage someone to support Palestine Action.
- A person also commits an offence if they arrange, manage or assist in arranging / managing a meeting, which they know: is to support, further the activities of Palestine Action; or is to be addressed by a person who belongs or professes to belong to Palestine Action.

s.13 Terrorism Act 2000 - Symbols of proscribed organisations / wearing a uniform

- A person commits an offence if in a public place they wear an item of clothing or wears, carries or displays an article in such a way or in such circumstances as to arouse reasonable suspicion that they are a member or supporter of Palestine Action.

Advice

- Should you suspect a TACT offence relating to PAG please contact your local Counter Terrorism Policing (CTP) region.

KEEP ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE LAW

The law protects the right to lawful protest, and policing supports your right to legally make your voice heard. However, the law also protects people from racist and religious abuse and from terrorism being promoted.

Whilst the majority of people are complying with these rules, a minority have crossed the line.



To avoid ending up in a police cell...

DON'T use words or images:



That are racist or incite hatred against any faith



That support Palestine Action, Hamas, or any other banned organisation - it is illegal under UK law to support such terrorist organisations.

For further information see

counterterrorism.police.uk/proscription



That celebrate or promote acts of terrorism, such as the killing or kidnap of innocent people.

Do not display this on any material. Bin it immediately



Don't cause fear or be violent, including using flares or fireworks, or using threatening words or aggressive behaviours that could be considered intimidating



Don't deface or damage statues, monuments or other property.



Check with your local police force is legal restrictions are in place for the protest you wish to join or have joined. Don't breach these measures which are there to keep everyone safe.



Please help other protesters to stay on the right side of the law too. If you see behaviour that has crossed the line into criminality, please report it immediately to one of the officers policing the protest.



**COUNTER
TERRORISM
POLICING**