



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_0801

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 27/10/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0801

On 11/08/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Please accept our apologies for the oversight. We would like to clarify the definitions used in our request:

A child is defined legally as anyone under the age of 16, and an adult is anyone aged 16 or over—unless the Sexual Offences Act classifies them differently.
Sent from Proton Mail Android

Dear Freedom of Information Officer,

Please treat this as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Scope / time period:

Please provide the information requested below for the five-year period up to and including today: from 9 August 2020 to 8 August 2025 inclusive. Where you hold data by calendar or financial year, please provide a yearly breakdown for: 2020 (partial: from 9 Aug 2020), 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 (partial: to 8 Aug 2025). For every item below, break down results by year and by victim age group: Child (under 18 at date of report) and Adult (18 and over at date of report). Please also include a total for the whole period.

If a dataset field cannot be produced exactly as requested, please provide the nearest equivalent exportable data (e.g., internal category codes) and explain the difference.

Section A — Child victims warned they could be subject to criminal investigation/arrest 1. For incidents involving a child victim, the number of occasions where police informed the child or child family that they themselves could be subject to criminal investigation or arrest under the Sexual Offences Act where the other party was

an adult. Provide counts by year (as defined above) If you record whether this occurred in writing or verbally, please include that breakdown.

Section B — Victim updates released before formal notification

2. The number of cases where police released public updates or press statements about a suspect's remand, charge, sentence, or release before the victim (adult or child) had been formally notified. Provide counts broken down by:

- > Year (as above).
- > Victim age group (adult / child).
- > Type of update (e.g., remand/charge, court appearance, sentencing, release from custody).

Section C — Family / parental arrests or interviews arising from complaints

3. For reports where the victim was a child and where police action involved arrest or formal interview of a parent or immediate family member arising from complaints by (a) the police, or (b) the alleged predator, please provide (counts by year):

- > Number of parents/family members arrested.
- > Number of parents/family members formally charged.
- > Number of parents/family members convicted.
- > Number of parents/family members released without charge.
- > Please indicate whether the original victim was a child or adult for each count.

4. Repeat the counts in (3) for cases where the victim was an adult.

- > (If your systems do not link "parent/family member" to incidents directly, provide the nearest available proxy — e.g., arrests linked to the same incident ID — and explain the method used.)

Section D — Outcomes for sexual offences reports

5. For all crime reports recorded under the Sexual Offences Act in the period, provide counts by year and by victim age (adult / child) for each outcome category at case closure or finalisation:

- > No further action (NFA) / no prosecution.
- > Released pending further investigation (i.e., not charged at initial decision).
- > Charged (formal charge applied).
- > Convicted (court conviction recorded).
- > Found not guilty / acquitted.

Section E — Additional counts requested (to expose poor practice)

6. Number of occasions where a victim (adult or child) was informed that they might be treated as a suspect in the same investigation (counts by year and victim age).

7. Number of occasions where the police recorded an internal investigation or misconduct review relating to handling of sexual offence allegations (counts by year; indicate whether linked to adult or child victim).

8. Number of occasions where external bodies (CPS, IOPC, Local Authority Safeguarding) were notified about concerns relating to police handling of sexual offence cases (by year and victim age).

Section F — Registered sex offenders (on / off the register),
> proximity to schools / parks, and town-level counts

9. For each year in the period, provide the following aggregate counts for persons resident in the area your force manages (do not provide any names, addresses, or other personally-identifiable information):

> a. Number currently subject to notification requirements (on-register) under the Sex Offenders Act or equivalent who were resident in the force area on the snapshot date for that year.

> b. Number no longer on the register (previously required to notify but removed lawfully) who were resident in the force area on the snapshot date for that year.

> c. For the populations in (a) and (b) separately, the number whose registered/residential address is located within a three-minute walk of:

- > Any school;
- > Any public park or playground;
- > Either a school or a park (combined).

> d. For all counts in (a), (b), and (c), also provide a breakdown by town (or equivalent local administrative area / policing district used in your published crime statistics). If exact “town” boundaries are not recorded, use the nearest equivalent spatial category available (e.g., beat area, sector, neighbourhood policing team boundary).

> 10. For the proximity counts in 9(c), please also provide a short methodology statement for each year specifying:

> Snapshot date used for the count (e.g., 8 Aug of each year or your local snapshot date).

> Whether you used registered/residential address or last known address.

> The distance definition used for “3-minute walk” (e.g., pedestrian network walk-time calculation or straight-line buffer in metres) and, if metres, the radius used. If a walk-time model was used, state the data source (e.g., Ordnance Survey, local authority walkway data) or routing algorithm.

> Any exclusions or caveats (e.g., suppressed addresses, sheltered housing exclusions, definition of school sites).

> Privacy note: only aggregate counts are requested. Where any town-level count would be fewer than 5 individuals, please merge into an “<5 / suppressed” category to protect privacy.

> Definitions & notes for clarity

- > Sexual Offences Act: use your force's local crime-recording tags / NCRS/IMPACT categories that constitute sexual offences. If you use different classification, please provide a mapping.
- > Victim age: classify by victim age at date of report (child = under 18; adult = 18+).
- > Arrest / charged / convicted: use force operational records. If conviction data is held by courts and not in force systems, please indicate that and provide what you can.
- > "Informed" the child: include any instance where police explicitly told a child or the guardian of the child that the child could be investigated/charged, whether verbally or in writing.
- > Town boundaries: if you publish standard tables by town/sector/beat, please use those published categories and indicate the category name used.
- > Format and delivery (cost reduction)
 - > To assist in keeping this request within the Section 12 cost limit, the information may be provided in any reasonable aggregated form, including: A simple plain text table in the email body or a .txt file; A CSV or Excel spreadsheet; or A clearly structured Word or PDF document containing tables.
 - > I do not require extraction into a specific database export format if that would increase time or cost. If a category cannot be broken down exactly as specified, please provide the nearest available aggregated count and note the difference.
- > Priority / cost-limit fallback
 - > If full compliance would exceed the Section 12 cost limit, please supply the following in priority order first:
 - > 1. Section D (Outcomes for sexual offences reports).
 - > 2. Section F (Registered offender counts and methodology).
 - > 3. Section A (Child victims warned they may be investigated/arrested).
 - > 4. Section B (Victim updates released before formal notification).
 - > If you cannot comply fully, please confirm which sections you will provide and an estimate of cost/time for the remainder.
- > Public interest & follow-ups
 - > This request is made in the public interest to improve transparency and safeguarding practice in the handling of sexual offence allegations and the management of registered offenders. If you hold de-identified example incident IDs or redacted case summaries illustrating the categories above (e.g., examples of notifications to victims preceding public updates), a small number of redacted examples would be helpful.
 - > If you could deliver this request via email to the email address we sending this from that would be appreciated. If you need to contact us just reply and we will answer.

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 I am unable to electronically extract the information requested.

When an Individual contacts the police and it is deemed to be a police matter, an incident will be created on the Incident Recording System. Please note that the word “incident” in Gloucestershire Constabulary's terminology refers to a type of record, not the event as a whole. If an offence is being reported (rather than a missing person for example) the “incident” will be assessed to determine if the offence falls within the Home Office Crime Recording Rules. If that incident is deemed to fall within the counting rules, a “crime” will be recorded on the Crime Recording System.

Please note that the Incident Recording System is largely a free text entry system and does not record information in as much detail as the Crime Recording System and therefore its reporting function is limited.

That being said, some of the information requested is not actively recorded within the Crime Recording System, and a manual review of crime records is required to determine if the information is held.

Initial searches for substantiated crimes where the offence falls under the Home Office offence group of Sexual Offences has returned over 9,000 records. Even if we were to reduce the time frame to a period of 12 months, i.e. 09/08/2024 – 08/08/2025, there are 2,099 records. Of those, there are 951 where the victim is under 18yrs. To manually review this number of records would take longer than the 18 hours prescribed by the Freedom of Information Act.

This is also the case for press statements and public releases – a manual review of any records held by the Press Office would be required to determine if information is held that is relevant to your request.

In relation to Registered Sex Offenders, whilst some information can be extracted from the management system, retrospective “snapshots” cannot.

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 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.

I confirm that the Constabulary could provide the following:

We are able to answer point 5 of your original request, however please be advised that the Constabulary only holds data in relation to the Police outcomes, i.e. Bailed, Charged/summoned, NFA etc. The ultimate outcome of a charge depends on what happens at court i.e. whether the offender is found guilty (convicted) or not. This information comes from the court results which do not come within our systems. Hence we record the detection disposals for each case but do not have the ultimate conviction data. Any information relating to the outcome of a case, the length of sentence or whether any appeal was made is therefore not held by the constabulary, but by the HM Courts Service.

If this information would be useful to you, you can resubmit your 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