



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_0873

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 29/09/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0873

On 02/09/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

The purpose of this request is to gather data on the number of arrests linked to the distribution, sale or possession of illegal or otherwise unregulated weight loss drugs or products (e.g. those not licensed for use in the UK).

This request also covers cases where otherwise licensed weight loss products are being distributed, supplied, or administered by individuals or businesses not legally authorised to do so (e.g. beauty salons or unlicensed practitioners).

Specifically, I am seeking information on the following from January 2024 up until the most recent month available, e.g. August 2025:

1. The total number of arrests or recorded offences in relation to the alleged distribution, supply, or possession of illegal or unregulated weight loss drugs and/or products - including cases where licensed products are distributed, supplied, or administered by individuals or businesses not legally authorised to do so (e.g. salons or unlicensed practitioners).
2. The current number of ongoing investigations into the distribution, supply, or possession of such weight loss drugs and/or products - including where the seller or administrator is not licensed to do so.

For clarity, I understand that cases may be recorded under a variety of descriptions or codes. To assist in locating the requested information, the following keywords and terms may be relevant: "GLP-1", "weight loss", "slimming", "Mounjaro", "Ozempic", "Wegovy", "Retatrutide", "Semgalutide", etc.

Possible offence categories (examples, not exhaustive): Administering a poison (e.g. Offences Against the Person Act 1861, s.23/s.24), supplying a prescription-only medicine (Human Medicines Regulations 2012), or supplying an unauthorised medicine (Human Medicines Regulations 2012).

If you use internal classification codes for recording such incidents, please apply those that most closely relate to the above offences. I confirm that I am not seeking any personal or identifying information about individuals involved in these cases.

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

With regards to question 1, we are unable to answer this without a manual review of arrest records.

The primary function of the Constabulary's Arrest Recording System is to assist the Constabulary in adhering to Code C of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. As such, its reporting function is limited. The system does not record detentions under specific offences, such as those listed under the Home Office Crime Recording Rules; instead it uses Reason for Arrest (RFA) Categories. Unfortunately there is no single RFA Category for the offences listed above, and a manual review is therefore required of all authorised detentions. For the time period specified in your request, there are over 15,000 arrest records that would need to be reviewed, which would obviously take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of the Freedom of Information 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.

Section 16 – Duty to assist

By way of assistance I confirm that the Constabulary could search its crime database for substantiated crimes where specific terms such as "GLP-1", "weight loss", "slimming",

"Mounjaro", "Ozempic", "Wegovy", "Retatrutide", "Semgalutide" appear in the MO. Depending upon the number of crimes retrieved by the search, we may be able to manually review the crimes to determine whether there is information held that is relevant to your request. If you wish to submit a request on this basis, please let us know.

If this would be useful, please confirm the exact terms you would like us to search. Please note that a search will only be useful for standalone words/terms that don't also form part of other words/terms.

It would also assist if you could refine the offences that may be relevant to your enquiry. Crimes are recorded using the Home Office Crime Recording Rules. A link to the published information has been provided below;

[Home Office Crime Recording Rules for frontline officers and staff - GOV.UK](#)

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