



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_0900

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 05/01/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0900

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

Please could I request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act, which I am asking of every police force in the UK:

1. The number of group-based child sexual exploitation offences recorded by the force for each of the past three calendar years (Or if this data has not been recorded, the number of child sexual abuse offences, flagged as child sexual exploitation, for each of the past three calendar years)
2. The total number of alleged victims involved in these offences for each of the past three calendar years.
3. The number of requests the force has made to Snapchat (Snap Inc) for account data/records, as part of investigations into group-based child sexual exploitation investigations (or CSA investigations flagged as CSE) for each of the past three calendar years.

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 no way to retrieve the information by way of electronic searches. There is no code or marker to identify "group-based child sexual exploitation offences".

Whilst there is a marker for Child Sexual Exploitation, the only way of trying to determine whether any relevant information is held with respect to group-based offences would be to manually review each record that falls under "sexual offences" where the tag is present, for the time period, to establish if any of these fit the definition of group based offending. A manual review of these records is also required to determine if data requests have been made to Snapchat as part of the investigation process. As there are over 1,200 records

that require manual review, this would take longer than the 18 hours prescribed by 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 – unable to assist

Unfortunately I am unable to provide any assistance under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act as I am unable to suggest any way to refine your request to come within the cost constraints of Section 12 of the Act.

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