

Gloucestershire Constabulary
Police Headquarters
No.1 Waterwells, Waterwells Drive
Quedgeley, Gloucester. GL2 2AN
www.gloucestershire.police.uk



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_25_0949
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 13/04/26

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0949

On 29/09/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

For each of the 3 points listed below please provide breakdown by year –2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. Please treat each year as a calendar year from Jan-Dec. For 2025 please use Jan-September inclusive.

- 1) How many offences has your force recorded where the key term “Tinder” has been used? (ie where the term Tinder has been mentioned in the MO field of a crime report)?
- 2) How many offences has your force recorded where the key term “Hinge” has been used? (ie where the term Hinge has been mentioned in the MO field of a crime report)?
- 3) How many offences has your force recorded where the key term “Dating app” has been used? (ie where the term Dating app has been mentioned in the MO field of a crime report)?

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

Following receipt of your request, searches were conducted. I can confirm that the information you have requested may be held by Gloucestershire Constabulary, however, over 460 results were returned, many of which containing the word “hinge” as an unrelated term to the dating app, for example ‘door hinge’. To provide a definitive response to your request would require a manual search of all free text results. We have estimated that this part of the request 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 for this part of your request.

When applying Section 12 exemption our duty to assist under Section 16 of the Act would normally entail that we contact you to determine whether it is possible to refine the scope of your request to bring it within the cost limits. However, from the information we have outlined above I see no reasonable way in which we can do so.

Please see below for suggestions on how you may be able to refine your request to come within the cost constraints of Section 12 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.

Section 16 – Duty to assist

By way of assistance, I confirm that the Constabulary could search its crime database for crimes where the terms “Tinder” or “dating app” 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 the information 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.

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