



Gloucestershire Constabulary
Police Headquarters
No.1 Waterwells, Waterwells Drive
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www.gloucestershire.police.uk

Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_1021

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 15/07/2027

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_1021

On 19/10/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am writing to request the total number of criminal investigations opened by your police force into women on suspicion of illegally ending a pregnancy in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 (to date).

Please:

1. Provide separate figures for each specific year, and another for all the years combined
2. Break down the figures into 'no further action' OR 'charge made' OR 'investigation ongoing' where possible
3. Do not include more than one entry where the same individual has been criminally investigated more than once on suspicion of illegally ending their pregnancy
4. Take 'illegally ending a pregnancy' as anything listed in the Notifiable Offences List under the following categories:
 - a. 014/01 Procuring an illegal abortion - Administering drugs or using instruments to procure abortion
 - b. 004/03 Child destruction - Intentional destruction of a viable unborn child

From the above offences, please only include investigations where the woman who is / was pregnant is the suspect.

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

Police Forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used

for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data. It should be noted that for these reasons the figures given relate to information from the specific recording system of Gloucestershire Constabulary and should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you receive.

Please note that our systems are designed to record information for policing purposes and the investigation of crime and not to extract statistical information. Accordingly, whilst we endeavour to extract relevant data within the time limits of the Act, any data supplied is subject to these limitations.

A search was conducted for all substantiated crimes recorded between 01/01/2020 and 19/10/2025 with the HO Class being either 014/01 or 004/03. The results are below.

Offence/Outcome	Total
Intentional destruction of a viable unborn child	< 5

Section 17 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.

With regard to the disclosure of further breakdown of data the following exemption applies:

Section 40(2) Personal Information

Section 40(2) applies to third party personal data. This would not be released under the Freedom of Information Act unless there is a strong public interest. The disclosure of any information which could lead to the identification of an individual would breach the Data Protection Principles contained within the Data Protection Act 2018, namely the first principle which states that personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to individuals

This exemption is absolute and class based therefore I am not required to apply either the public interest test or harm test in disclosure.

In accordance with the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this part of 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