

**Gloucestershire Constabulary**  
Police Headquarters  
No.1 Waterwells, Waterwells Drive  
Quedgeley, Gloucester. GL2 2AN  
[www.gloucestershire.police.uk](http://www.gloucestershire.police.uk)



Your reference: N/A  
Our reference: FOI\_25\_1132  
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\_1132**

On 21/11/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Would you be able to tell me:

- How many people were caught using number plate blockers or number plates with reflective coatings from 1 January 2025 to 21 November 2025
- How many people were caught using number plate blockers or number plates with reflective coatings in 2024
- How many people were caught using number plates with non-standard characters, incorrect font, spacing or sizing from 1 January 2025 to 21 November 2025.
- How many people were caught using number plates with non-standard characters, incorrect font, spacing or sizing in 2024.

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

Unfortunately, there is no central register for the information you requested and no way to retrieve the information by way of electronic searches. The Constabulary records offences of this nature using specific offence codes, such as: "drive a vehicle when the registration mark fails to confirm with regulations". Therefore, the only way of trying to determine whether any relevant information is held and to retrieve that information would be to manually review each offence in all possible codes. This would involve the review of hundreds of records and would therefore take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by the Freedom of Information Act.

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.

### **Providing Information Outside of the Act**

By way of assistance and although excess cost removes the Force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, we have supplied the information relevant to your request which has already been retrieved. We trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

| <b>Offences between 1st January 2024 and 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025</b>                 |     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Drive a vehicle when the registration mark fails to conform with regulations               | 55  |
| Keep a vehicle when registration mark fails to conform with the regulations                | 134 |
| Drive vehicle no front registration plate - registered after 30/09/38                      | 24  |
| Keep vehicle no front registration plate - registered after 30/09/38                       | 4   |
| Drive vehicle / vehicle and trailer no rear registration plate - registered after 30/09/38 | 22  |
| Keep vehicle no rear registration plate - registered after 30/09/38                        | 2   |
| Drive a vehicle with registration mark obscured / indistinguishable                        | 12  |

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](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)

Post –

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer  
Gloucestershire Constabulary