

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



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_1210

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 15/01/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_1210

On 19/12/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am writing to obtain information held on applications/requests sent to the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Health and Social Care relating to HSA4 form requests, which are abortion notification forms.

For each of the years 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025, please may you provide the following information relating to each specific HSA4 form request:

1. The month that the request was sent to the DHSC
2. Was the request accepted or denied
3. The legal grounds on which it was accepted or denied
4. The offence code relating to the investigation that was taking place

I note that Question 1 asks for the month the request was submitted to the DHSC. If providing information that specific would risk exposing personal data in any way, please instead provide the appropriate Quarter in which the request was submitted instead.

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. The only way of trying to determine whether any relevant information is held and to retrieve that information would be to manually review Crime records and Case files. As there are, on average, approximately 50,000 crimes recorded per year, a manual review would far exceed the permitted time and cost constraints of the Freedom of Information Act. As the information requested is not limited to just 1 type of offence, it is not possible to refine the scope of the searches to bring it within the cost limits.

As a result, Section 12 of the Act is engaged. 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

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

Under Section 16 of the Act, unfortunately I'm unable to provide any advice for how you could refine your request to come within the cost constraints of Section 12. Even if you reduce the time period, the number of crimes would not be reduced enough to make a manual review possible.

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