

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



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_1056

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 24/06/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_1056

On 04/11/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1) In the last three years, has the British Hound Sports Association made any self-referrals concerning any possible criminal activity amongst their members?

If so, how many?

2) In the last three years, has the Hound Sports Regulatory Authority made any self-referrals concerning possible criminal activity amongst their members?

If so, how many?

3) In the last three years, has the Rugby Football Union made any self-referrals concerning possible criminal activity amongst their members?

If so, how many?

Gloucestershire Constabulary can neither confirm nor deny that it holds any information in relation to your request as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply, by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 31(3) Law enforcement

Section 40(5) Personal Information

Section 31 is a prejudice based qualified exemption and there is a requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused in confirming or not whether information is held as well as considering the public interest.

Section 40 is an absolute and class based exemption therefore I am not required to apply either the public interest test or harm test in disclosure, however, please be aware that

information released under the Freedom of Information Act is considered a release in the widest sense (that is, a release to the world) and the release of this information, including either confirming or denying whether or not it is held, would breach the Data Protection Principles contained with 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

S.31 - Evidence of Harm

To confirm or deny whether information is held in relation to the reporting of any alleged criminal activity of individuals would be likely to prejudice the law enforcement functions of preventing and detecting crime and apprehending and prosecuting offenders. Issuing confirmation or denial responses in relation to any allegations, except for those that have already been publicly confirmed by Police, would enable the public to build up a picture of who may have been the subject of any allegations. This would be prejudicial to policing functions, as individuals, including victims, may be less willing to come forward or assist with our enquiries if they were to believe that this information may become public knowledge, and then be identified themselves.

Public Interest Test

Factors Favouring Disclosure – Section 31

Confirming or denying whether information is held regarding the reporting of allegations made by or against individuals, would allow the public to see where the public funds are being spent and show the police service to be open and transparent in regards to its activities.

Factors Against Disclosure – Section 31

To confirm or deny that law enforcement holds information on any individual/s in relation to this matter has the potential to damage Gloucestershire Constabulary's ability to prevent and detect crime or apprehend or prosecute offenders in any associated allegations.

Balance Test

After weighing up the competing interests, I have determined that the Public Interest favours the application of the neither confirm nor deny stance in respect of your request.

To confirm or deny whether we hold this information would do little to further the public interest arguments, and in fact would have a negative impact upon Gloucestershire Constabulary's abilities to protect public safety and the promise of confidentiality inherent in our communications with those assisting with our enquiries.

Therefore, for the reasons set out above, I have found the balance test favours neither confirmation nor denial and accordingly refuse your application.

No inference can be drawn from these facts that information does or does not exist.

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