

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



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_ 26_0060

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 16/07/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_ 26_0060

On 14/01/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am writing to request the following information relating to communications offences

- For each of the years 2024 and 2025 the number of arrests made by your force for each of the following offences
 - o Section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988
 - o Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003
 - o Section 179, Part 10, of the Online Safety Act 2023 (false communications)
- For each of the years 2024 and 2025 the number of people charged by your force for each of the following offences
 - o Section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988
 - o Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003
 - o Section 179, Part 10, of the Online Safety Act 2023 (false communications)

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 completed for authorised detentions between 01/01/2024 till 31/12/2025 which were then filtered for the relevant requested offences, this gave the following data:

Offence Arrested For	2024	2025	Grand Total
Cause To Be Sent By Public Communication Network A False Message To Cause Annoyance / Inconvenience / Anxiety	2		2
Cause To Be Sent By Public Communication Network An Offensive / Indecent / Obscene / Menacing Message / Matter	4	4	8
Persistently Make Use Of Public Communication Network To Cause Annoyance / Inconvenience / Anxiety	8	4	12
Send By Public Communication Network An Offensive / Indecent / Obscene / Menacing Message / Matter	86	65	151
Send Communication / Article Of An Indecent / Offensive Nature	17	24	41
Send Letter / Communication / Article Conveying A Threatening Message	13	6	19
Send Letter / Communication / Article Conveying False Information	21	2	23
Send Letter / Communication / Article Conveying Indecent / Offensive Message	10	8	18
Grand Total	161	113	274

A search was then completed for the offences recorded between 01/01/2024 till 31/12/2025 which were then filtered for the relevant requested offences then further filtered for positive outcomes, this gave the following data:

Offence	2024	2025	Grand Total
Malicious communications	68	32	100
1 - Charged/Summons	15	6	21
2 - Youth Caution		1	1
20 - Action undertaken by another body/agency	8	3	11
22 - Diversionary	6		6
3 - Adult Caution	4	2	6
8 - Community Resolution	35	20	55
Other indictable offences not classified	2		2
8 - Community Resolution	2		2
Send communication threatening death or serious harm	12	29	41
1 - Charged/Summons	4	7	11
20 - Action undertaken by another body/agency	3	6	9

22 - Diversionary	1	1	
3 - Adult Caution	1	1	
8 - Community Resolution	5	14	19
Send false communication with intent to cause harm	2	2	
1 - Charged/Summons	2	2	
Grand Total	84	61	145

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