

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



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_26_0112

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 16/04/26

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_26_0112

On 28/01/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

I am writing to request the following information relating to the DNA spraying

- A copy of any policy held by your force on the use of DNA tagging spray (such as Selecta DNA)
- A copy of any policy held by your force on the use of DNA tagging spray (such as Selecta DNA) at protests
- A copy of any policy held by your force on the use of DNA tagging spray (such as Selecta DNA) at sports games

I would like all document sent electronically please. Under Section 16 of the Act I also ask that if this request cannot be fulfilled under the legislation, that you offer advice and assistance to help the request comply with the act. I look forward to your response within 20 working days.

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

Following searches, I can confirm that Gloucestershire Constabulary does have a policy for the use of DNA tagging spray.

No information is held regarding any policy documents held by Gloucestershire Constabulary on the use of DNA tagging spray at protests, nor any policy documents held by Gloucestershire Constabulary on the use of DNA tagging spray at sports games.

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.

Regarding the remainder of your request (content of policy documentation) the following exemption applies:

Section 31(1)(a) – Law Enforcement

Section 31 exemption is qualified and prejudice based therefore both a Public Interest Test and Harm Test are required.

Public Interest Test

Factors in Favour of Disclosure

The disclosure of this information would lead to a better awareness of the public in how the Constabulary conducts this type of investigation and provide reassurance to the public.

Factors against Disclosure

Releasing the policy to the public could share with the public strategies used by Gloucestershire Constabulary to conduct investigative work and could reduce the ability of the Police to prevent and detect offences and apprehend offenders.

Harm Test

Modern-day policing is intelligence led, and intelligence changes on a day-by-day basis. Disclosures under the Freedom of Information Act are disclosures to the world, not just to the individual making the request.

To provide details of how the police use DNA tagging to offenders may change their behaviour in a detrimental way. This would undermine the Constabulary's ability to fully investigate such offences.

The disclosure of information which is likely to undermine the Constabulary's ability to serve the public in preventing and detecting crime can only be considered as being harmful to the public.

Balance Test

The Police Service is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing procedures, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding tactics and capabilities to ensure that the protection of the public is safeguarded. Therefore, it is our opinion that the balance of the public interest favours withholding the information.

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