

Gloucestershire Constabulary
Police Headquarters
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Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_26_0113

E-mail: FOI

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Direct dial: 01452 754304

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Date: 09/07/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_26_0113

On 29/01/2026 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 your force's spending on informants

1. The total amount of money your force has spent on informants or Covert Human Intelligence Sources (CHIS) in each of the past two years (please use the two last full reporting years, whether this is calendar, financial or another period).
2. The amount of money that was spent on informants in protest or activist groups
3. The amount of this that was spent on informants in a) far right groups b) pro-Palestine groups and c) environmental groups

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 s1, I can confirm that Gloucestershire Constabulary holds some relevant information in relation to Q1.

Q1:

Financial Year	Amount
24/25	£17,340.00
25/26	£10,390.00

With regards to Q2 and Q3, the Constabulary can neither confirm nor deny that it holds any other information relevant to this request as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply. 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) state why the exemption applies

The following exemptions apply:

Section 23(5) - Information supplied by, or relating to, bodies dealing with security matters.

Section 24(2) – National security

Section 30(3) – Investigations and proceedings conducted by public authorities

Section 23(5)

Section 23 is a class based absolute exemption and therefore does not require a public interest test. Confirming or denying whether any additional CHIS related information is held would reveal information supplied by, or relating to, bodies listed in section 23(3). The Act therefore prohibits confirmation or denial.

Section 24(2)

Section 24 is a prejudiced based qualified exemption and there is a requirement to evidence the harm and consider the public interest to ensure neither confirming nor denying that information is held is appropriate.

Section 30(3)

Section 30 is a class based qualified exemption and there is a requirement to consider the public interest to ensure neither confirming or denying information is held is appropriate.

Section 24(2)**Harm Test**

Disclosure of informants data or even assumed data could impact on the recruitment and retention of CHIS in general, due to the perception of and or actual risk of identification. The disclosure of the requested information would risk damaging national security through discouraging current national security CHIS from cooperating with the police service in other geographical areas or preventing the recruitment of national security CHIS in the future. Regardless of whether the area in question actually currently runs CHIS reporting on serious crime, terrorist or other threats.

Public Interest Test**Factors favouring confirming or denying that any other information is held**

Confirmation or denial that any other information exists relevant to the request would lead to a better-informed public and the public are entitled to know how public funds are spent. The information simply relates to national security, and disclosure would not actually harm it.

Factors against confirming or denying that any other information is held for Section

It is documented that a number of organisations including the police service are widely engaged in engaging with informants in a number of ways, and therefore by confirming or denying that any other on information exists relevant to the request would harm the close relationship that exists with such organisations, where trust and confidence in this specific area has been built up in the exchange of information and financial assistance during the Criminal Justice process.

To confirm or deny whether Gloucestershire Constabulary hold any additional information would allow inferences to be made about the nature and extent of national security related activities which may or may not take place in a given arena. This could enable terrorist groups to take steps to avoid detection, and as such, confirmation or denial would be damaging to national security.

By confirming or denying any policing arrangements of this nature would render national security measures less effective. This would lead to the compromise of ongoing or future operations to protect the security or infra-structure of the UK and increase the risk of harm to the public.

Section 30(3)**Factors favouring confirming or denying that any other information is held**

The confirmation or denial that information is held would provide a greater insight into policing and how resources are allocated to investigate crimes. The confirmation or denial that any other information is or is not held would identify if Gloucestershire Constabulary utilises CHIS within this type of investigation topic area.

Factors against confirming or denying that any other information is held

To confirm or deny that any other information relevant to this request is held would provide details of any previous or on-going investigations. Informant's information and intelligence assist police investigations and ultimately assists the Criminal Justice process. To confirm or deny that Gloucestershire Constabulary has used informants within specific investigations would provide sensitive information that would undermine policing and investigations. This could lead to the compromise of ongoing or future investigations

Balance Test

The police have the overall arching aim of enforcing the law, preventing, and detecting crime and protecting the communities that we serve. The security and maintenance of investigations are of paramount importance, and Gloucestershire Constabulary will not divulge whether information is or is not held if to do so would place the safety of an individual at risk or undermine National Security and investigations. Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing operations and providing assurance that the police service is appropriately and effectively engaging with the threat from criminals, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding both national security and the integrity of police investigations and operations in this highly sensitive area. As much as there is public interest in knowing that policing activity is appropriate and balanced in matters of national security, this will only be overridden in exceptional circumstances.

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