

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



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_26_0120

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 10/04/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_26_0120

On 30/01/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Request 1

Hello

Please provide the following information:

The number of meetings that took place within your force every year between 2015 and 2026 where attendance was limited by racial group

This of course does not include meetings of an informal nature conducted by employees in their own time.

'Limitations' would include advertising the event as open for people of one or more ethnic backgrounds over others.

Request 2

Please can you provide the following information

For each year between 1990 and 2026, the number of complaints your force has received about instances of human defecation

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

With regards to Request 2, unfortunately there is no central register for this information and no way to retrieve the information by way of electronic searches.

When an Individual contacts the police and it's deemed to be a police matter, an incident will be created on the Incident Recording System. Please note that the Incident Recording System is largely a free text entry system and its reporting function is limited.

Whilst we are able to search for keywords that may be present within the text of the incident report, the only way to determine whether any relevant information is held and to retrieve that information would be to manually review incident records.

The incident recording system holds data back to 2010. An initial search of the incident recording system for "defecat" (purposefully with no "e" so as to capture variations of the word such as "defecation") has returned 212 records that would need to be manually reviewed to determine relevance to your request. This would take longer than the 18 hours prescribed by the Freedom of Information Act.

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.

Providing Information Outside of the Act

By way of assistance and although excess cost removes the Force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, I have supplied the information relevant to your request which has already been retrieved. I trust this is helpful but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

With regards to Q1, there are no formal records of meetings, however the following has been provided by Gloucestershire Ethnic Minorities Association (GEMA), which is the Gloucestershire Constabulary staff association for black, minority and ethnic staff.

"From 2015 to 2026 there have been very few meetings (averaging from nil to two or three in a year) where we have run a get together in work time for minorities to have a safe space to discuss issues and have support. These get togethers have been open to anyone identifying as a minority as well as supporters or allies. The range of attendance has been

in the single figures as a rule and from a full diverse community including white British, Eastern European, Black, Asian, Traveller/Gypsy and Vegan. Also included in this is people of all faith and nationality including, Muslim, Jew, Christian, Buddhist, Sikh, Hindu etc."

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