

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



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_26_0131

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 23/04/26

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_26_0131

On 03/02/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Request 1

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please confirm whether Gloucestershire Constabulary holds any records relating to police interviews conducted with Fred West, including but not limited to:

- Audio recordings
- Interview transcripts (full or partial)
- Interview notes, summaries, or memoranda
- Custody records identifying interview dates, locations, or officers present

If such records are held, please confirm:

- The format in which they exist (audio, written, digital, paper)
- The approximate number of interviews recorded
- The date range covered

I am not requesting disclosure of the content at this stage, only confirmation of what material is held.

Request 2

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide copies of any policies, guidance, or procedural documents in force between 1992 and 1995 relating to:

We are committed to being an anti-discriminatory organisation. This means not only acting in a non-discriminatory way, but addressing systemic inequalities, disadvantage and discrimination.

- The recording of police interviews in major crime investigations
- Transcription of recorded interviews
- Retention, archiving, or destruction of interview recordings and transcripts

This request relates to policy documentation only and does not seek personal data or case-specific material.

Request 3

I am writing to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please confirm whether Gloucestershire Constabulary holds **photographic records** relating to **25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester**, including photographs taken during:

- Police searches
- Forensic examination
- Excavation
- Police occupation or securing of the property

If such photographs are held, please confirm:

- The approximate number of images
- The format(s) in which they are held
- Whether any images were not released publicly at the time of the investigation

I am not requesting copies at this stage, only confirmation of existence and scope.

Request 4

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please confirm whether records are held relating to 25 Midland Road, Gloucester, including:

- Photographs taken during searches, forensic work, or police occupation
- Property or scene logs
- Forensic or investigative documentation relating to the property

If such material is held, please confirm:

- The general nature of the records
- The formats in which they are held
- Whether any photographic material was not released publicly

I am not requesting disclosure of the material at this stage, only confirmation of what is held.

Request 5

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please confirm whether Gloucestershire Constabulary holds records specifically relating to:

- Heather West

- Shirley Robinson

This request is limited to confirmation of records held and their general nature (e.g. reports, correspondence, interview material).

I am not requesting disclosure of personal data or sensitive content at this stage.

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

To provide a definitive response to your application (request 3) for the number of images held by Gloucestershire Constabulary, and whether these images were not released publicly at the time of the investigation, we would need to manually review any held artefacts. In addition, to ascertain the type and volume of material relating specifically to Heather West or Shirley Robinson (request 5) would require a similar manual search. This would involve the review of hundreds of records and would therefore take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by the Freedom of Information Act, therefore Section 12 of the Act is applicable. This section does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimated that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit of 18 hours, equating to £450.00.

You should consider this to be a refusal notice under Section 17 of the Act for this part of your request.

When applying Section 12 exemption our duty to assist under Section 16 of the Act would normally entail that we contact you to determine whether it is possible to refine the scope of your request to bring it within the cost limits. However, from the information we have outlined above I see no reasonable way in which we can do so.

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, we have supplied the information relevant to your request which has already been retrieved. We trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

- Gloucestershire Constabulary holds 146 typed interview transcripts, and 9 police artist interviews dated between 16/03/1994 – 18/03/1994 (not fully transcribed) in relation to Fred West.
- Gloucestershire Constabulary holds 4 custody records / record sheets in relation to Fred West. They are not fully typed.
- Gloucestershire Constabulary does not retain copies of any policies, guidance, or procedural documents from the timeframe (1992-1995) you stated.
- Gloucestershire Constabulary holds 8 physical photo albums in relation to the address of 25 Cromwell Street. They are not electronically indexed.
- Gloucestershire Constabulary holds 9 physical photo albums in relation to the address of 25 Midland Road. They are not electronically indexed.
- Gloucestershire Constabulary holds records in relation to both Heather West & Shirley Robinson in the form of statements & reports.

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