

Gloucestershire Constabulary
Police Headquarters
No.1 Waterwells, Waterwells Drive
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www.gloucestershire.police.uk



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_26_0166

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 29/06/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 26_0166

On 11/02/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Please provide the following data covering the period 1st January 2007 until 31st December 2025:

1. The number of charges brought by your force under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 where the defendant's recorded occupation at the time of arrest/charge was "Pest Controller," "Pest Control Technician," or "Exterminator."
2. A breakdown of the specific sections charged (e.g., Section 4 - Unnecessary Suffering; Section 7 - Administration of Poisons; Section 9 - Breach of Duty of Care).
3. The type of animal involved (if recorded).

If a manual search of all animal welfare cases exceeds the cost limit, please prioritize a search of the "Occupation" field in your custody system for the keywords mentioned above. If occupation data is not searchable, please provide the total number of charges under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 where "poison" or "trapping" was mentioned in the case summary.

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

Unfortunately, occupation is a non-mandatory free text field and may be updated each time an individual comes into contact with the police. Electronic searches could only extract the occupation recorded on the system at the time the search is made if the field has been completed. For example a victim may have come into contact with the police in 2006 when their occupation was recorded and then again in 2014 when the occupation field was updated. The occupation then showing on the system would not be correct for

the 2006 crime. Equally a victim's occupation may not be recorded at all on initial contact but recorded at a later stage following subsequent contact with the police. It would be incorrect to link the occupation showing on the system to the earlier crime.

The only way of trying to determine whether any information is held relating to the occupation of "pest controller", "pest control technician" or "exterminator" and to retrieve any relevant information would be to undertake a manual review of all crime records and the individual records of the victims of those crimes. This would take more 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.

- From 01/01/2007 and 31/12/2025, 450 crimes were recorded under the offence: causing, permitting or failing to prevent unnecessary suffering of protected animal

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