

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



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_26_0211

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 25/03/26

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_26_0211

On 23/02/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am writing to request the following information:

1. The number of recorded crimes in your force area from 1 January 2018 to present where the location was a place of religious worship (church, mosque, synagogue, temple, gurdwara, or other).
2. If available, please break down these figures by type of religious site and by crime category (e.g., criminal damage, arson, burglary, hate crime, assault).
3. If your force does not hold records that identify crimes at places of religious worship, please provide a justification for this. For example:
 - The location type is not available to record on your reporting system
 - It has never been recorded in this level of detail
 - Officers are instructed not to record that particular location type
 - Other reasons (please specify)
4. Please confirm whether your crime recording system (e.g., NICHE, Athena, or other) has a field for “location type” and whether “religious site” is an available option.
5. Please state whether there are any plans to improve recording granularity for crimes against religious sites.

I would prefer to receive the information electronically.

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

Police Forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data. It should be noted that for these reasons the figures given relate to information from the specific recording system of Gloucestershire Constabulary and should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you receive.

Please note that our systems are designed to record information for policing purposes and the investigation of crime and not to extract statistical information. Accordingly, whilst we endeavour to extract relevant data within the time limits of the Act, any data supplied is subject to these limitations.

Following searches of the Constabulary's crime recording system, we were able to search for substantiated crimes from 1 January 2018 to present. We were able to search for 'church/religious building' as this is a recognised location code that we can apply. To refine this further to aid your request, we were able to apply a keyword search to the MO free text returned. The only locations relevant to the list you provided in your request were 'church', 'mosque' and 'synagogue'.

- 1) Please see the attached spreadsheet (26_0211 No. of Crimes and HO Classification and Offences) for the number of substantiated crimes, organised by year, from 1 January 2018 to present where the location was 'church/religious building'. This is broken down by Home Office (HO) Classification and Offence.
- 2) Please see the table below which is organised by year, from 1 January 2018 to present, where a keyword search to the MO free text has looked for the locations specified in the request.

Year	CHURCH	MOSQUE	SYNAGOGUE	Not recorded	Total
2018	29			16	45
2019	39	2		44	85
2020	67			40	107
2021	74	3	1	43	121
2022	102	1		56	159
2023	114	2		45	161
2024	85	1		35	121
2025	84			58	142
2026	6			3	9
Total	600	9	1	340	950

- 3) N/A
- 4) N/A

5) No information is held.

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