

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



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_ 26_0280

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 22/06/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_ 26_0280

On 11/03/2026 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 communications offences

- For each of the years 2021, 2022 and 2023 the number of arrests made by your force for each of the following offences
 - o Section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988
 - o Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003
 - o Section 179, Part 10, of the Online Safety Act 2023 (false communications)
- For each of the years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 the number of people charged by your force for each of the following offences
 - o Section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988
 - o Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003
 - o Section 179, Part 10, of the Online Safety Act 2023 (false communications)

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.

A search was completed for authorised detentions between 01/01/2021 till 31/12/2023 which were then filtered for the relevant requested offences, this gave the following data:

Offence Arrested For	2021	2022	2023	Grand Total
Cause To Be Sent By Public Communication Network A False Message To Cause Annoyance / Inconvenience / Anxiety			1	1
Cause To Be Sent By Public Communication Network An Offensive / Indecent / Obscene / Menacing Message / Matter	1		7	8
Persistently Make Use Of Public Communication Network To Cause Annoyance / Inconvenience / Anxiety	3	10	6	19
Send By Public Communication Network An Offensive / Indecent / Obscene / Menacing Message / Matter	70	83	89	242
Send Communication / Article Of An Indecent / Offensive Nature	14	19	15	48
Send False Message By Public Electronic Communication Network To Cause Annoyance, Inconvenience Or Anxiety	4	2	4	10
Send Letter / Communication / Article Conveying A Threatening Message	49	38	54	141
Send Letter / Communication / Article Conveying False Information	1	14	15	30
Send Letter / Communication / Article Conveying Indecent / Offensive Message	5	15	7	27
Send Letter / Communication / Article Conveying Threatening Message	2			2
Grand Total	149	181	198	528

A search was then completed for the offences recorded between 01/01/2021 till 31/12/2023 which were then filtered for the relevant requested offences then further filtered for positive outcomes, this gave the following data:

Offence	2021	2022	2023	Grand Total
Malicious communications				
1 - Charged/Summons	64	59	43	166
2 - Youth Caution	2			2
20 - Action undertaken by another body/agency	16	29	19	64
22 - Diversionary	28	53	22	103
3 - Adult Caution	11	8	7	26
6 - Penalty Notice	1			1
8 - Community Resolution	1	21	66	88

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