

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



Our reference: FOI_26_0285

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 03/09/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_26_0285

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 information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please confirm the procedures used by your force when allegations of corruption, abuse of position, or serious misconduct involving police officers or police staff are received from members of the public.

Specifically:

1. When an allegation of corruption or criminal misconduct involving a police officer or police staff member is received from a member of the public, under what circumstances is the allegation:
 - a) recorded as a crime on the force crime recording system;
 - b) recorded as intelligence only;
 - c) recorded as a Professional Standards complaint or conduct matter.
2. Please provide any policy, guidance, decision-making framework, or procedural document used by the force to determine which of the above categories an allegation is recorded under.
3. Please confirm whether Professional Standards Departments or Anti-Corruption Units have the authority to determine that an allegation of corruption should not be recorded as a crime.
4. If such authority exists, please provide the policy or governance document describing this decision-making process.

This request is limited to policy and procedural documentation and does not seek any personal data or information relating to specific cases.

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

To respond to the questions you asked, one of Gloucestershire Constabulary's subject matter experts (SMEs) conducted a search for relevant and recorded information. I can confirm the information retrieved below:

An allegation would be recorded if there was a case to answer decision made or a charging decision.

An allegation would be recorded as a complaint, and the complaint would be available against the name of the officer it relates to. It would not be recorded as intelligence, unless the report was made anonymously for example through crime stoppers, in which case a covert intelligence report would be recorded by the anti-corruption unit and the matter assessed.

No separate policy is held by Gloucestershire Constabulary. Complaints are handled in accordance with regulations, IOPC and HO guidance.

Delegated appropriate authority attends a nationally recognised training event (5 days) at the College of Policing, as well as a national recognised course on the regulations.

Gloucestershire Constabulary follows:

- The Home Office Statutory Guidance: Conduct, Efficiency and Effectiveness: Statutory Guidance on Professional Standards, Performance and Integrity in Policing
- College of Policing: Guidance on outcomes in police misconduct proceedings
- The Police (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2020

In summary, the point at which a crime will be recorded will be when:

- The Appropriate Authority determines that there may be a case to answer criminally and requests Crown Prosecution Service advice; or
- The Appropriate Authority determines, in accordance with the DPP Charging Guidance, that a charge or summons or out of court disposal should be issued in relation to a criminal matter; or
- The Appropriate Authority determines, on the balance of probabilities, that there is a case to answer for misconduct or gross misconduct and the nature of the conduct is such that it would amount to a notifiable offence for the purposes of HOCR.

The appropriate authority is as defined in *The Police (Conduct) Regulations 2012*.

Any allegation of a crime against a police officer or member of police staff which solely relates to his/her off duty activities or is other than in the execution of his/her duties should be dealt with in accordance with the NCRS and the Counting Rules.

Clarification

- The term 'police staff' includes any non-sworn employee of a force and will include Police Community Support Officers and Custody Detention Officers as well as staff employed in other roles.

- Where criminal offences are being covertly investigated, notwithstanding a formal assessment of criminal conduct there is no requirement to record a crime until such time as the investigation progresses to a formal stage.

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