

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



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_26_0290
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 17/03/26

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_26_0290

On 12/03/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I hope this email finds you well. I am making this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

From all arrests in the calendar year 2024 recorded by Gloucestershire Constabulary, where any of the following offences is recorded on the custody record (whether as the main or a secondary offence):

- * Section 4A Public Order Act 1986
- * Section 5 Public Order Act 1986
- * Section 18 Public Order Act 1986
- * Section 19 Public Order Act 1986
- * Section 20 Public Order Act 1986
- * Section 21 Public Order Act 1986
- * Section 22 Public Order Act 1986
- * Section 23 Public Order Act 1986
- * Section 29B Public Order Act 1986
- * Section 29C Public Order Act 1986
- * Section 29D Public Order Act 1986

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.

* Section 29E Public Order Act 1986

* Section 29F Public Order Act 1986

* Section 29G Public Order Act 1986

please select up to 40 arrests using the following method:

- Order all of the eligible arrests in 2024 by date, starting with the first that occurred in 2024

- Pick out every third arrest, starting with the first of the year (i.e. arrest one, arrest four, arrest seven, arrest 10 etc.)

- Do this until you have reached the bottom of the list, or selected 40 arrests, or selected the maximum number of arrests allowed within the cost limit of this request

- If you reach the bottom of the list before exceeding 40 arrests/the cost limit, please return to the top of the list and repeat this process, starting with the second arrest of the year (i.e. arrest two, arrest five, arrest eight, arrest 11 etc.)

- If you reach the bottom of the list again before exceeding 40 arrests/the cost limit, please return to the top of the list and repeat this process, starting with the third arrest of the year (i.e. arrest three, arrest six, arrest nine, arrest 12 etc.)

If, for any reason, this method is not practicable, please simply select the first 40 eligible arrests by date in 2024. If you do this, please state that you have.

For each arrest in the sample, please provide:

1. An anonymised reference (e.g. A1, A2, A3 etc.)

2. The date of the arrest (month and year only, e.g. May 2024)

3. Which of the above offences is recorded (any of the sections of the Public Order Act listed above)

4. Any other offences that are recorded

5. The existing short "offence summary" / "crime summary" / "custody record description" / "modus operandi (MO)" text (or equivalent field) that describes the conduct

If possible, please provide the data as a .xlsx file.

I am not seeking any direct identifiers. In particular, I do not require:

- Names of suspects, victims or witnesses

- Exact addresses or postcodes

- Dates of birth

- Exact times of day

I am content for you to redact or generalise any information you consider necessary to prevent individuals from being identifiable (e.g. replacing names with "[male]", "[female]" etc.). If, after attempted redaction, you consider that a particular record still cannot be anonymised adequately, I am content for you to simply omit that record from the sample and instead include another eligible arrest.

In order to remain within the cost limit, this request is deliberately limited to 2024 and a maximum of 40 arrests. If providing offence summaries for 40 offences would still exceed the cost limit under section 12 of the Act, please instead provide the largest number of sample offence summaries that you can within the cost limit, and state how many arrests were included in the final sample. If there were fewer than 40 eligible arrests in 2024, please include as many as would remain within the cost limit. If there were no eligible arrests, please state this.

If any part of this request is unclear, or you consider that a minor re-wording would allow it to be answered more easily within the FOIA cost limits, I would be grateful for your advice and assistance under section 16 of the Act.

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

The primary function of the Constabulary's Arrest Recording System is to assist the Constabulary in adhering to Code C of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. As such, its reporting function is limited. The system does not record detentions under specific offences under the Home Office Crime Recording Rules; instead, it uses Reason for Arrest (RFA) Categories. Unfortunately, there is no single RFA Category for the offence(s) you have stated above. Although it's possible to follow an arrest through to a recorded crime and the police outcome per individual, it's not possible to retrieve electronic statistics. Therefore, to ascertain if any relevant arrest information is recorded, a manual review of hundreds of records would be required. This would clearly take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Please see below for suggestions on how you may be able to refine your request to come within the cost constraints of Section 12 of the 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.

Section 16 – unable to assist

Unfortunately, I'm unable to assist in suggesting ways of refining your request to come within the confines of Section 12 of the Act.

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