

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



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_26_0293
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 26/03/26

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_26_0293

On 13/03/2026 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 requesting information relating to sexual offences involving licensed taxi and private hire drivers.

Please provide, for the most recent three full calendar years (2023; 2024; 2025) available, the following information:

Please break it down by year for each question (2023; 2024; 2025).

1. The number of recorded sexual offences in which the offender was convicted of the offence and identified as a licensed taxi driver or private hire driver.

1a) If possible, please break this down by offence type: rape, sexual assault, assault by penetration, etc...

2. Of these, how many offenders carried out the offence against victims who were passengers with them at the time

2a) If possible, please break this down by offence type: rape, sexual assault, assault by penetration, etc...

For the purposes of this request, please interpret "taxi driver" to include both hackney carriage drivers and private hire drivers, where this information is recorded.

I would prefer to receive the information in electronic form, ideally as a spreadsheet or CSV file.

Thank you for your assistance!

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

Unfortunately, it is not possible to electronically retrieve the information you have requested.

Although the crime recording system can and does capture information surrounding the occupation of a victim and/or an offender, it is not possible to accurately report on this.

The occupation field within the system is free text and non-mandatory. As such, the field is not always completed. This field is held within the Person Record on the system and although this links to the Crime Record, it is only possible for the reporting function to retrieve the most recent occupation, which is likely to therefore be inaccurate. For example, a person could come to police notice in 2014 with the occupation of Administrator and then again in 2016 and the occupation was recorded as Taxi Driver. The system would retrieve both crimes as occurring with the victim having an occupation of Taxi Driver, which would be incorrect. The opposite is also possible; a person could come to police notice in 2015 with an occupation of Taxi Driver but in 2017, it's recorded as Administrator. In this example, neither crime would be retrieved from the search for a victim with an occupation of Taxi Driver. It is also possible for the victim's occupation to not be recorded at all, which obviously would not be retrieved from a search.

As such, to accurately provide any relevant information, a manual review of all crimes for 2023 - 2025 would be required, to ascertain if we hold any information relating to crimes where the offender was a Taxi Driver.

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.

Under Section 16 of the Act, unfortunately I am unable to provide any advice for how you could refine your request to come within the cost constraints of Section 12. Even if you

reduce the time period, it is unlikely to reduce the number of crimes enough to make a manual review possible.

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, we have supplied the information relevant to your request which has already been retrieved. We trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

Following a search of the Constabulary's recorded offences for the calendar years 2023 – 5, applying the Home Office category 'sexual offences' & a key word search of "taxi", "taxi driver", "Hackney Carriage Driver", "PHV", "Uber" and "cab", 52 records were returned.

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