

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



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_26_0294

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 07/04/26

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_26_0294

On 13/03/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am conducting academic research into how police forces manage archived mobile-device digital evidence in cold-case investigations. To ensure this request is clear and manageable, I am asking only for information that is already recorded and held by your Digital Forensics Unit.

1. Policies or Procedures for Archiving Mobile-Device Evidence Please provide any recorded policies, procedures, or guidance documents that describe how your Digital Forensics Unit archives mobile-device digital evidence in cold-case investigations.

If held, these may include information on:

Whether evidence is stored using the original device, a forensic image, or both.

The types of files or data normally kept (for example: full extractions, images, or generated reports).

2. Storage Methods and Formats

Please provide any recorded information describing:

The types of storage media used to keep archived mobile-device evidence (e.g., hard drives, servers, cloud storage, etc.).

The file formats in which this evidence is stored (e.g., extraction images, exported reports, etc.).

(Only information already recorded in documents, logs, or inventories is requested.)

3. Reviews or Re-Examinations of Archived Mobile-Device Evidence Please confirm whether statistics on re-examination activity are recorded, and if so, what information is held.

4. Access to Older or Legacy Formats

Please provide any recorded information on whether your Digital Forensics Unit keeps older or legacy forensic software, tools, or viewers to access mobile-device evidence stored in outdated or proprietary formats.

If recorded, please also provide any documented procedures for opening or converting older evidence formats.

5. SOPs for Reviewing Archived Evidence

Please provide any standard operating procedures (SOPs), policies, or guidance documents your Digital Forensics Unit holds that relate to the reviewing of archived mobile-device evidence in cold-case investigations.

If held, please also indicate whether these documents reference the Forensic Science Regulator's Code of Practice.

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

1. All data is archived according to MOPI guidelines onto LTO tape. This includes the extracted data and generated report.
2. As above the extracted data and report is archived to LTO tape.
3. No information held.
4. Legacy LTO tape drives are retained in order to restore data on legacy versions of LTO tape.
5. No documents are held that relate to mobile evidence in cold-case investigations

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