

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



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_26_0308

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 31/03/26

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_26_0308

On 20/03/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information.

For the period 1 January 2021 to 28 February 2026, please provide:

The total number of rape and sexual assault crimes recorded that include the tag 'online', 'virtual reality', 'VR' or 'virtual'.

The total number of rape and sexual assault crimes recorded including the tag 'metaverse', 'meta', 'Roblox', or 'Fortnite'.

The gender and age of any victims - if unable to be specific then under 10, under 13, under 16, under 18, or 18+ is acceptable.

Whether these crimes resulted in any investigation (and if this is ongoing), arrests, charges, prosecutions, and convictions.

If fulfilling this request exceeds the cost limit, please advise on how I may refine it to fall within the limits.

Please provide this information in an electronic format (Excel or CSV preferred).

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.

Following searches of the Constabulary's crime recording database, we were able to search for rape and sexual assault crimes between 1 January 2021 to 28 February 2026, recorded with the tags: 'online', 'virtual reality', 'VR' or 'virtual', 'metaverse', 'meta', 'Roblox', or 'Fortnite'. We were able to break the data down by age and crime outcomes.

Of the 289 crimes recorded, 270 included the tags 'online', 'virtual reality', 'VR' or 'virtual'.

Of the 289 crimes recorded, 8 included the tags 'metaverse', 'meta', 'Roblox', or 'Fortnite'.

Of the 289 crimes recorded, the ages of the victims are as follows:

Age	
Under 10	8
10 to 12	27
13 to 15	98
16 to 17	28
18 to 24	32
25 to 34	23
35 to 44	19
45 to 54	8
55 to 64	3
65+	1
No age recorded	42
	289

Of the 289 crimes recorded, the outcomes are as follows:

Crime Outcome	
Charged/Summons	49
Not in the public interest (Police)	1
Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action	32
Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim supports action	53
Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support action	60

Investigation complete: no suspect identified	79
Action undertaken by another body/agency	3
Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest	2
Diversionary	2
Adult Caution	8
	289

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