

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_0320
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 02/04/26

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_26_0320

On 23/03/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

For the period of 1 year (including start and end date) 1 January 2025 - 31 December 2025:

The total number of reported alleged (sexual offences / sexual assaults / rapes) that mention a (vape / e-cig / electronic cigarette / e-cigarette) was used as a method of (drugging / administering a drug / spiking / incapacitating) the alleged victim.

If your force does not record any of the terms specified above as a unique field but allows free-text searches of incident reports, please indicate the search words used. If any items cannot be provided, please provide as much aggregated information as you can and indicate which items are refused/absent and the reasons.

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

Following receipt of your request, a free-text search of incident records was conducted for the keyword "spik" to pick up any spiking-related incidents and 527 results were returned for the time frame requested. The only way of trying to determine whether any relevant information is held and to retrieve that information would be to manually review each incident. This would involve the review of hundreds of records and would therefore take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by 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 – duty to assist

It may be possible to conduct a search of substantiated crimes with a specific offence code or free-text search of the related modus operandi (MO).

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