

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



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_26_0321

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 16/04/26

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_26_0321

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

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am a postgraduate student researching how police forces in England and Wales define and respond to academic misconduct within entry programmes such as the Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship (PCDA) and Degree Holder Entry Programme (DHEP).

Please provide the information below. Where possible, include data from 1 January 2020 to present. If this is not available, please provide the closest available data and indicate the time frame.

If any part of this request exceeds the cost limit, please advise how it may be refined. Where information is not held in the exact format requested, please provide the closest available data.

1. Does your force participate in the PCDA and/or DHEP? Please specify which programmes are in use and the partner Higher Education Institution(s).
2. How does your force classify academic misconduct by student officers (e.g. plagiarism, collusion, unauthorised materials, misuse of AI)?
 - a) Police misconduct
 - b) Academic/performance issue
 - c) Both
 - d) Other (please specify)

3. Does your force have policies or guidance relating to academic misconduct by student officers? Please provide copies or links where available.

4. What sanctions or outcomes may apply where academic misconduct is identified (e.g. reflective practice, misconduct proceedings, dismissal, removal from programme)? Please provide any relevant guidance.

5. From 1 January 2020 to present, please provide:

a) Number of recorded cases of academic misconduct involving student officers

b) Outcomes (e.g. no action, management action, misconduct proceedings, dismissal/resignation)

6. Are academic misconduct cases recorded as a distinct category, or within broader categories (e.g. integrity or discreditable conduct)? If the latter, how are they identified? If held, please indicate whether any cases involved contract cheating or AI-assisted misconduct.

7. What is the role of the partner HEI in determining outcomes (e.g. HEI-led academic decisions, force-led misconduct decisions, or joint decision-making)? Please provide any relevant policy or procedural information.

8. When academic misconduct is suspected, does the HEI notify the force:

- At the point of suspicion/investigation
- Only once concluded
- At multiple stages (please specify)

Is this information sharing governed by any formal agreement or policy? If so, please provide details or copies.

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

1. Gloucestershire Constabulary follows the PCDA & DHEP routes through the University of South Wales (USW).
2. All recent cases have been dealt with as performance matters and academic misconduct. They are assessed on a case-by-case basis with the involvement of the Constabulary's Professional Standards Department (PSD).
3. Gloucestershire Constabulary and student officers follow the USW Academic Integrity and Academic Misconduct document, and this forms the basis for any academic misconduct investigation.
4. Sanctions or outcomes are considered on a case-by-case basis in collaboration with the HEI and PSD. These have included re-sits and capped marking.
5. No information held.
6. No information held.
7. A joint decision-making approach is taken between the HEI and Gloucestershire Constabulary.
8. Gloucestershire Constabulary is informed at the point of suspicion and then throughout the HEI investigation.

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