

Gloucestershire Constabulary
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Our reference: FOI_26_0416

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Postal Address: As above

Date: 27/07/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_26_0416

On 29/04/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Please provide the following information for the latest five reporting years (or, if cost exemptions prohibit it, the latest 12-month reporting period for which data is available):

1. The number of individuals recorded as suspects against offences flagged as involving child sexual exploitation (CSE).
2. Of those individuals in Q1:

A) the number for whom checks were carried out against international policing databases (Interpol, Europol or other relevant international databases).

B) The number for whom such checks resulted in a positive match indicating that they were already recorded on such systems in connection with criminality or policing intelligence.

3. Of those individuals in Q1, how many were in recorded in cases that contained one or more of the following words in your force's records: "vape", "vapes", "vape shop" (total number, no breakdown by specific search term is required)
4. Of those individuals in Q1, how many were in recorded in cases that contained one or more of the following words in your force's records: "convenience store", "corner shop", "off licence", "mini market" and "mini mart" (total number, no breakdown by specific search term is required)

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

Upon receipt of your request, an initial search was carried out of the Constabulary's incident recording database, where we can search the free text field for key words and tags. This search was undertaken for the date range 29/04/2025 to 29/04/2026. This initial search returned 262 records. Unfortunately, not all your request, regarding key word searches for records such as "vape", "vape shop" or "convenience store" is electronically retrievable and to provide you with a full and accurate response, we would be required to manually review the 262 records retrieved to understand if any of the information is relevant to the questions you asked. We have estimated that this would take 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

Following our initial search, we attempted to reduce the need to engage section 12, so a search was undertaken from 29/04/2025 to 29/04/2026 for the number of individuals recorded as suspects against offences flagged as involving child sexual exploitation (CSE). This returned 262 results. Please note that the key word searches you have asked to complete are likely to engage section 12 depending on the number of results 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