

Gloucestershire Constabulary

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



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_26_0455

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 03/07/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 26_0455

On 12/05/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. For the years 2020-25, please give annual totals for the number of cannabis farms your force has discovered.
2. Of these cannabis farms (1.) how many were found in residential properties? Again, please give annual totals for the years 2020-2025.
3. Can you put a total street value on the amount of cannabis plants discovered for each year?
4. Please include details of any measures the force is taking to tackle the use of cannabis farms by organised criminal networks, in particular the trend of repurposing people's homes to grow the drugs.

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

Following receipt of your request

Section 17 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.

The following exemptions apply:

Section 21 – Information reasonably accessible by other means

The above exemption is absolute and class-based and therefore no Public Interest Test or Harm Test is required.

The information that you have requested is already reasonably accessible to you by other means and is therefore exempt by virtue of Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Gloucestershire Constabulary are required to make certain information available to the public as part of a publication scheme.

The information sought has been published on the Gloucestershire Constabulary website and is readily available via previous FOI requests.

[foi_25_1065_commercial-cannabis-farms.pdf](#)

The following exemption applies relating to Q4
Section 31(1)(a) – Law Enforcement

The exemption above is qualified and prejudice based therefore both a Public Interest Test and Harm Test are required.

Harm Test

There's no denying that criminals will utilise the use of (FOI) Freedom of information to determine the tactics and intelligence held by the force in relation to crimes, for example to ascertain knowledge of how the force is tackling the use of cannabis farms by organised criminal networks. The release of this information has the potential to increase avoidance of detection, alongside the increasing the level of potential harm to members of the public and the workload of Police officers.

Public Interest Test

Factors in Favour of Disclosure

The disclosure of this information would lead to a better awareness for the public of the measures in place within the county to combat the use of cannabis farms by organised criminal networks.

Factors against Disclosure

The disclosure of information could compromise the obvious deterrents in place from Gloucestershire police within the force area. Disclosing information relating to policing tactics would allow criminals to gage how effective their criminality is. This could lead to criminal actors changing their methods and avoiding detection. Ultimately, this would harm the overarching goal of preventing and detecting crime whilst seeking to bring offenders to justice.

Balance Test

The Police Service is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing organised criminal networks, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding tactics and capabilities to ensure that the protection of the public is

safeguarded. Therefore, it is our opinion that the balance of the public interest favours withholding the information.

In accordance with the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this part of your request.

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