

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



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_26_0483

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 02/07/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_26_0483

On 20/05/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Thank you for your response to FOI_26_0469.

I would like to refine my request to remain within the Section 12 cost limit.
Please limit the request to calendar year 2020 only.

Please provide:

1. The number of recorded offences under Section 15 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 ("Meeting a child following sexual grooming") recorded during 2020.
2. Of those offences, the number of records in which the MO free text contains any of the following terms:
 - "paedophile hunter"
 - "pedo hunter"
 - "vigilante"
 - "sting"
 - "decoy"
 - "hunter group"
 - "civilian group"
 - Child protection
3. Any current policy, guidance, briefing documents, or internal protocols relating to the handling or use of evidence provided by online vigilante or "paedophile hunter" groups. I understand that the keyword search may not identify every relevant case and may require limited manual review for relevance.

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

Following receipt of your request we have sourced this to our specialist department in Gloucestershire Constabulary who have provided the response. Please see below

Q1) 4

Q2) 3

Q3) Gloucestershire Constabulary follows NPCC guidance in relation to Online Child Sexual Abuse/Exploitation Activist Group (OCAG)

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