

**Gloucestershire Constabulary**  
Police Headquarters  
No.1 Waterwells, Waterwells Drive  
Quedgeley, Gloucester. GL2 2AN  
[www.gloucestershire.police.uk](http://www.gloucestershire.police.uk)



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI\_26\_0531

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 15/06/2026

Dear

**Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI\_26\_0531**

On 04/06/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am writing to make a request for recorded information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please provide the following data regarding recorded crimes and weapon seizures within your force's jurisdiction over the past five calendar years, plus the current year to date (from January 1, 2021, to May 31, 2026).

To ensure this request remains within the appropriate cost limit, please apply a two-stage filtering process to your search:

1. Stage 1 (Cohort): Identify all recorded offences or incidents that feature a "bladed article", "sharp instrument", or "knife crime" marker, OR fall under Home Office offence codes for possession of an offensive weapon.

2. Stage 2 (Keyword Search): Within that specific cohort, search the Modus Operandi (MO) text, summary, or free-text notes fields for any of the following keywords:

- "kirpan"
- "ceremonial dagger"
- "ceremonial knife"
- "religious exemption"
- "religious article"

To help minimise administrative time and keep this request within the appropriate cost limit, please provide the data in a digital, machine-readable format such as a Microsoft Excel (.xlsx) spreadsheet or a Comma Separated Values (.csv) file.

If you require any clarification on the parameters of this request, please do not hesitate to contact me. If certain parts of this request are bound to exceed the cost limit, please prioritise the raw annual counts across the specified keywords.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 s1, I can confirm that Gloucestershire Constabulary holds no relevant information.

Following receipt of your request, searches were conducted of the Constabulary's crime recording database for substantiated crimes between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 & 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026 for offences committed under the Home Office offence codes for possession of an offensive weapon. This information was filtered to look for the key words you provided us with.

0 records were 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](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)

Post – Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer  
Gloucestershire Constabulary