

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



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_26_0590
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 23/06/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_26_0590

On 22/06/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Request 1:

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

I would be grateful if you could provide the following information for the last three years, broken down into calendar years:

1. Number of cameras

What is the total number of ANPR cameras in active operation by your organisation? If the numbers have changed, please break down in years (2024, 2025, 2026)

2. Camera operation times and modes

Please share records showing the operational availability of those cameras, including:
Total operational hours.

Total hours where cameras were unavailable, offline, malfunctioning or otherwise unable to capture registration plate data.

3. Performance reports, audits or statistics:

Please share any performance report, audits or statistics showing the below:

The percentage of time ANPR cameras were fully operational.

The percentage of vehicle registrations successfully captured or read.

Any recorded failure rates for vehicle registration capture.

4. Guidance on ANPR operation / non operation Please define terminology: share guidance, policies, or technical standards used to determine whether a camera is considered operational vs non operational referencing

We are committed to being an anti-discriminatory organisation. This means not only acting in a non-discriminatory way, but addressing systemic inequalities, disadvantage and discrimination.

5. Network operation

If the information only covers a part of your ANPR network, please provide what's available.

6. ANPR detection failures

For the last three years, please provide the number of instances where a vehicle was detected but:

The number plate could not be read ("unreadable plate" / failed read) The plate was partially captured or unclear Any other recorded error rates for ANPR systems

7. Suspicious or altered plates

For the last three years, please provide the number of recorded instances where a vehicle was flagged as using:

a cloned registration plate

a suspected fraudulent or misrepresented registration plate a non-compliant or altered number plate If recorded, please provide a breakdown of categories used internally.

If data is not held

If any of the above categories are not specifically recorded, please confirm this and instead provide any alternative metric or closest equivalent you hold (for example, failed reads, unreadable plates, or enforcement flags).

Request 2:

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

I would like to request the following information from your organisation relating to vehicle registration plates, enforcement notices and cases involving incorrect or fraudulent vehicle identification.

I would be grateful if you could provide the following information for the last three years, broken down into calendar years:

1. Number of charges

Please provide the total number of Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs), Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs), road user charging notices, bus lane penalties, parking penalties or other vehicle-related enforcement notices.

2. Enforcement notices

Please provide the total number of enforcement notices that could not be pursued because:

- The registration mark could not be reliably read.
- cloned vehicle / cloned registration plate
- registration plate altered, obscured or otherwise fraudulent
- The vehicle identified in the notice was determined not to be the offending vehicle
- Please remove or inform us if emergency vehicles are part of this data

3. Cancelled charges

Please provide the total number of charges that were subsequently cancelled:

- The registration mark could not be reliably read.
- cloned vehicle / cloned registration plate
- registration plate altered, obscured or otherwise fraudulent
- The vehicle identified in the notice was determined not to be the offending vehicle
- Please remove or inform us if emergency vehicles are part of this data

4. Complaints/reports

Please provide the number of reports received from motorists claiming their vehicle registration plate had been cloned Please provide the number of cases where your organisation accepted that a cloned registration plate had been used.

5. Intelligence on fraudulent plates

Please provide any strategic assessments, problem profiles or intelligence reports produced concerning the growing use of cloned, ghost or fraudulent registration plates.

6. Value of revenue lost

Please provide the number and estimated total value (£) of penalties, charges, fines, tolls or other enforcement revenues that were collected over the last three years, broken down into financial years.

Please provide the number and estimated total value (£) of penalties, charges, fines, tolls or other enforcement revenues that could not be collected, were cancelled, written off, refunded or otherwise became unrecoverable as a result of:

Cloned registration plates.

Altered, obscured, ghost or otherwise fraudulent registration plates.

Cases where the offending vehicle could not be reliably identified.

Insufficient ANPR or camera evidence.

Please provide this for the last three years, broken down into financial years.

Please provide the number and total value (£) of enforcement notices that were cancelled after the recipient successfully demonstrated that their vehicle registration plate had been cloned..

If data is not held

If any of the above categories are not specifically recorded, please confirm this and instead provide any alternative metric or closest equivalent you hold (for example, failed reads, unreadable plates, or enforcement flags).

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

Unfortunately, there is no way of electronically searching for the information you have requested. A manual review of thousands of incidents recorded within the time frame requested with the keywords of the following 'vehicle plates', 'vehicle registration plates' or 'vehicle number plates' and 'cloned/cloning' would need to be conducted. This manual review would exceed the 18 hours as prescribed by Section 12 of 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.

Under Section 16 duty to assist, a search can be conducted of the Crime Recording System for specific offences if you refer to the link below for the Home Office Crime Recording Rules

[Home Office Crime Recording Rules for frontline officers and staff - GOV.UK](#)

Once you have referred to this link and confirmed which offences you require a search to be conducted and to include a search for property item of vehicle accessory part|number plate|.

If this would assist, please submit a new FOI.

In regards to ANPR systems, they do carry their own exemptions which will limit what information can be sourced.

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