

Gloucestershire Constabulary
Police Headquarters
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www.gloucestershire.police.uk



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_26_0591
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 26/06/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_26_0591

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

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

This request concerns how your force records and responds to reports involving targeted sexualised graffiti or written material in public or publicly accessible places — in particular where the writing includes a named person's details, telephone number, sexualised allegations, invitations to contact them for sexual purposes, or wording likely to expose them

to harassment, alarm, distress, unwanted sexual contact or safeguarding risk.

Purpose and public interest

This is a matter of significant public interest. Conduct of this kind appears likely to disproportionately affect women and girls and may fall within the scope of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), sexual harassment, stalking, harassment, safeguarding and repeat-victimisation frameworks. The purpose of this request is to establish whether such conduct is recorded, searchable and addressed by policy at all — and whether there is a gap in how forces identify, flag and respond to it. Whether or not the information is held is itself revealing: an absence of any recording mechanism or policy would indicate that this form of harassment is effectively invisible within force systems.

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.

Scope, cost and priority

I am not asking you to manually review individual case files. Please answer by reference to

information that is already recorded, searchable, coded, tagged, flagged or otherwise retrievable from your systems.

I am not seeking personal data about victims, suspects, witnesses, reporting persons or venue staff, and I do not seek disclosure of any information that would identify any individual case.

Where any part would exceed the appropriate cost limit under section 12, please answer the

remaining parts and provide advice and assistance under section 16 as to how the request could be refined, rather than refusing the request as a whole.

Priority: if the cost limit is engaged, please prioritise Parts 1 to 4, which should be answerable without manual case review, and apply section 16 advice and assistance to Parts 5 to 10.

Time period: please provide information for each calendar year from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2025, and for 1 January 2026 to the date of your search. Please provide figures in spreadsheet format where possible.

Part 1 — Recording and searchability

Please confirm whether your force holds any searchable flag, tag, marker, keyword, crime category, occurrence type or recording mechanism that would allow this type of conduct to be identified as:

- sexualised graffiti
- targeted sexual harassment
- publication of personal data in a public place
- phone-number graffiti
- public-place sexual harassment
- VAWG-related conduct
- stalking or harassment-related conduct
- repeat victimisation

If no such mechanism exists, please say so clearly.

Part 2 — Keyword counts

Please provide the number of recorded reports, incidents, crimes, logs or occurrences containing one or more of the following searchable terms, if held:

"graffiti", "toilet graffiti", "sexual graffiti", "sexualised graffiti", "public toilet", "cubicle", "written

in toilet", "phone number", "mobile number", "prostitute", "slag", "slut", "whore", "busty", "sex", "call me", "for sex", "sexual harassment"

If your systems cannot search by these terms, please explain what search terms, flags, crime categories or recording methods are available for this type of conduct.

Part 3 — Policies, guidance and training

Please provide copies of any policy, guidance, training material, briefing note, crimerecording

guidance or risk-assessment guidance held by your force concerning how officers or staff should respond to reports involving:

- sexualised graffiti
- graffiti or written material naming a person as sexually available
- graffiti or written material publishing a person's phone number or other personal data
- graffiti inviting strangers to contact a named person for sexual purposes
- sexual harassment in public or publicly accessible places
- anonymous third-party harassment through writing in toilets or public venues
- repeat reports of sexualised public-place harassment
- safeguarding or vulnerability concerns arising from this type of conduct
- links between this conduct and stalking, harassment, domestic abuse or VAWG

If no such document is held, please say so clearly.

Part 4 — Reviews, analysis and problem profiles

Please provide copies of any analysis, review, problem profile, equality impact assessment,

VAWG assessment, local briefing, crime-pattern analysis or strategic document held from 1

January 2021 onwards concerning:

- sexualised graffiti
- graffiti targeting named women or girls

- use of public toilets or public venues to publish personal data
- harassment involving phone numbers written in public places
- anonymous public-place harassment of women or girls
- sexual harassment in supermarkets, service stations, cinemas, hospitals, schools, hospitality venues, transport hubs or similar publicly accessible locations

If no such document is held, please say so clearly.

Parts 5 to 10 — Recorded characteristics of the reports in Part 2

For Parts 5 to 10, please answer only to the extent the information is retrievable from existing coded or structured fields without manual review of individual case files.

Where it is not so retrievable, please state that rather than incurring cost or refusing the request as a whole.

Part 5 — Publication of personal data

Of the reports identified, the number where the writing included, if held:

- a named person's telephone number
- a named person's address
- a named person's social media handle
- a named person's workplace or school
- a photograph or image of the person
- other identifying personal data

Part 6 — Victim sex / gender

- victim/complainant recorded as female
- recorded as male
- recorded as another gender category
- victim sex/gender not recorded or not retrievable

Part 7 — Age and vulnerability markers

- child victim
- adult victim
- victim recorded as vulnerable
- safeguarding concerns recorded
- repeat victimisation

Part 8 — Location type

- supermarket or retail premises
- service station
- cinema or leisure venue
- hospital, clinic or healthcare premises
- school, college or university
- pub, restaurant, hotel or hospitality venue
- public toilets
- workplace
- transport hub
- other publicly accessible premises
- private dwelling
- other / unknown

Part 9 — Crime or incident classification

- harassment
- stalking
- malicious communications
- public order
- criminal damage
- sexual offence
- hate crime
- domestic abuse
- violence against women and girls / VAWG
- safeguarding
- vulnerability
- repeat victimisation
- non-crime incident
- no further action / no crime recorded

Part 10 — Outcome

- resulted in a recorded crime
- resulted in an arrest
- resulted in a voluntary interview
- resulted in a charge or summons
- resulted in a caution, community resolution or other out-of-court disposal
- closed with no suspect identified
- closed with no further action
- where CCTV, venue records, cleaning logs or other third-party evidence was requested or reviewed, if recorded.

If any part of this request is refused, please identify the specific exemption relied upon and explain why it applies, including the balance of any public interest test. If information is not held, please say so clearly. Please provide the information in spreadsheet format where possible.

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

Following receipt of your request, an initial search was undertaken regarding part 2 of your application, in which you asked for a key word search of any of the Constabulary's recorded reports, incidents, crimes, logs or occurrences, from 01/01/2021 to 22/06/2026 (the date of your request). A search was undertaken of the Constabulary's incident recording database for "toilet" for the time frame you specified. 13,000+ records were returned. To establish if any of the records have any relevance to the questions you raised, we would need to manually review each case. For example, the free text of one of the first cases returned reads: *"Caller stated that she wasn't well and need to go to the toilet – she then hung up"*. We have confidently estimated that this part of your request alone would far exceed the permitted time constraints permitted by the Freedom of Information Act, therefore Section 12 of the Act is applicable. This section does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimated that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit of 18 hours, equating to £450.00.

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 – unable to assist

Unfortunately, I'm unable to assist in suggesting ways of refining your request to come within the confines of Section 12 of the Act. As you have requested free word searches of any of the Constabulary's recorded reports, incidents, crimes, logs or occurrences, even reducing the timescale you provided in your original request would not reduce the number of records enough that a manual review could be conducted within the timescale but still provide meaningful information.

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