

Gloucestershire Constabulary
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Our reference: FOI_26_0600

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Date: 15/07/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_26_0600

On 24/06/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. how many neighbourhood policing officers are in roles where they cannot be abstracted/guested to other departments, broken down into inspectors, sergeants and constables if those details are available, and not counting P.C.S.O's
2. how many neighbourhood officers are currently operational within the force, again broken down to Inspectors, sergeants and constables if those figures are available, and not counting P.C.S.O's
3. What is the percentage of Neighbourhood officers that have been abstracted / guested to other departments over the last 12 months, again if the figures are available, broken down to Inspectors, Sergeants and Constables, and again if those numbers are available, by monthly breakdown.
4. How many officers are currently operational within the force.
5. What are your current reported abstraction/guesting rates within the force for neighbourhood policing officers.

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

Following receipt of your request, searches were conducted by several of the Constabulary's subject matter experts (SME) regarding human resource (HR) and officer deployment data. Unfortunately, not all the information is retrievable electronically and would require SMEs to manually review records that are physically held in different departments of the Constabulary. For example, the information you asked for in question 3 of your request is partially held in one of the Constabulary's databases, however, this

system was implemented Constabulary-wide in August 2025. This means that previous records, for each event where neighbourhood police officers were abstracted/guested to other departments, would need to be located and manually reviewed. Our subject matter expert has advised that they have estimated that this would take more than the 18 hours prescribed by the Freedom of Information Act and 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.

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.

Providing Information Outside of the Act

By way of assistance and although excess cost removes the Force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, we have supplied the information relevant to your request which has already been retrieved. We trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

- (Q1) All roles in neighbourhood can be abstracted to cover under exceptional circumstances/skills required dependant on the demand/event within the force and process are in place to ensure consistency and limited abstractions.
- (Q2) As of 30/06/2026 in neighbourhood policing, there were 120 constables, 26 sergeants & 6 inspectors.
- (Q4) As of 30/06/2026 Gloucestershire Constabulary has 1353 operational officers. This excludes officers seconded out of force.

Section 16 – duty to assist

You may wish to refine the date range you initially requested (12 months) to limit the search from August 2025 to date so that subject matter experts may be able to extract the information you require regarding abstracted or guested roles.

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