

Gloucestershire Constabulary
Police Headquarters
No.1 Waterwells, Waterwells Drive
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www.gloucestershire.police.uk



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_26_0613

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 10/07/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_26_0613

On 30/06/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I'd like to request the following information:

1. For each year over the past five years, can you provide the free text crime reports which include the word 'chemsex'?
2. For each year over the past five years, how many suspected chemsex context deaths were recorded by your force?
Chemsex is defined as the use of drugs such as GHB/GBL, methamphetamine, or mephedrone in a sexual context. Please provide a breakdown for each year.
3. Of those deaths, how many:
 - Were referred to homicide or major crime teams;
 - Resulted in a criminal investigation;
 - Resulted in arrests;
 - Resulted in charges?
4. Does your force have any specific operational guidance, policy, or training materials relating to crimes occurring in a "chemsex" context?

I wish to be informed in writing whether you have such information and, if so, I seek the disclosure of that information. If the information is covered by any exemptions, please disclose such information as is not covered by the exemptions.

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 undertaken. The first was of the Constabulary's crime recording database for substantiated crimes between 30/06/2021 and 30/06/2026. A key word search was applied to this search to look for "chemsex". A second search was undertaken of the Constabulary's incident recording system. Key word searches were undertaken for "chemsex", "mephedrone" and "methamphetamine". The same date range of 30/06/2021 and 30/06/2026 was used. A third search was undertaken of the Constabulary's intranet, which acts as its repository for policy documents and guidance materials. A fourth search was undertaken by a subject matter expert to retrieve any relevant training materials.

Police Forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide statistics to government bodies, and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data. It should be noted that for these reasons the figures given relate to information from the specific recording system of Gloucestershire Constabulary and should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you receive.

Please note that our systems are designed to record information for policing purposes and the investigation of crime and not to extract statistical information. Accordingly, whilst we endeavour to extract relevant data within the time limits of the Act, any data supplied is subject to these limitations.

In response to the questions you asked:

Q1 – 0 free text crime reports included the word 'chemsex' therefore 0 free text crime reports can be provided.

Q2 – following a search of the Constabulary's crime recording database, where substantiated crimes are recorded, 0 contained the key word "chemsex" in the MO free text. As you requested information on *suspected* chemsex context deaths, searches were also conducted of the Constabulary's incident log; this is where details of calls made by the public are recorded prior to being investigated by officers and, if appropriate, coded as a crime using the [Home Office Crime Recording Rules for frontline officers, staff - GOV.UK](#). 0 incidents were returned after a key word search of "chemsex" in the free text field. To search further, "mephedrone" and 'methamphetamine' were also looked for, returning 6 and 53 records respectively. I manually reviewed the free text remarks for relevance to your request; 0 were relevant and did not link either of the drug names with sexual activity and suspected deaths.

Q3 – as no relevant information was retrieved (Q2), no information is held for this part of your request.

Q4 – no information is held for this part of your request.

Should you wish for any additional searches to be undertaken, the Constabulary's crime recording database could be searched again; you could access the link above to determine which specific crimes you would like us to search for, however, please note that the key word search for "chemsex" has already covered all crimes during the time period you requested, so a different key word would need to be provided.

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