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Our reference: FOI_26_0638

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Date: 07/08/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_26_

On 06/07/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

On 1 April 2009, a Met Police officer struck, what would be, a fatal blow to a newspaper vendor, Ian Tomlinson, during a G20 protest <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-10728685>. An inquest jury concluded that a police officer unlawfully killed Mr Tomlinson.

Deaths in police custody

I am making this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

All deaths in police custody are referred to the coroner under the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and to the IOPC under the Police Reform Act 2002. These referrals are statutory. Information provided under statutory compulsion cannot be confidential in the section 41 sense. UK GDPR and section 40 do not apply to deceased persons.

Please answer each question separately.

1. Deaths in custody – annual totals

For each of the following periods:

- 1 January 2020–31 December 2020
- 1 January 2021–31 December 2021
- 1 January 2022–31 December 2022
- 1 January 2023–31 December 2023
- 1 January 2024–31 December 2024
- 1 January 2025–31 December 2025
- 1 January 2026–30 June 2026

Please provide the number of deaths

- in police custody.
- during arrest or restraint.
- following police contact where the incident meets the IOPC definition of a death in custody.

2. Demographic data – ethnicity, age and gender

For each death recorded in the periods above, please provide

- ethnicity (IC codes, 18+1, or ONS categories – whichever your force records).
- age at death.
- gender,

This is operational data created by the force. It is not confidential and does not engage section 40 or section 41.

3. Circumstances of death

For each case, please provide:

- location type (custody suite, police vehicle, public place, hospital after police contact).
- cause-of-death category as recorded by the force.
- whether force was used; if yes, the type of force e.g., taser, restraint, riot shield.
- whether mental health was recorded as a factor.

I am not requesting medical records or confidential clinical information.

4. Coroner information

For each death, please provide:

- the date the force referred the death to the coroner
- a list of categories of documents supplied to the coroner (for example, custody record, CCTV, officer statements, risk assessments)
- the inquest status (open, concluded, or pending)
- the inquest conclusion, if known to the force

Information supplied to the coroner is provided under statutory compulsion. Section 41 does not apply.

5. IOPC referral and investigation data

For each death, please provide

- the date of referral to the IOPC.
- the referral category (mandatory, independent, managed, supervised).
- the mode of investigation (independent, managed, supervised, local).

- a summary of IOPC findings held by the force (please provide the IOPC report or a verifiable and working link to that report).
- whether any officer faced misconduct or gross misconduct proceedings and the outcome.
- any learning recommendations issued.
- whether the force implemented those recommendations.

IOPC referrals and investigations are statutory. Section 41 cannot apply.

6. Ethnicity recording systems

Please provide

- how the force records ethnicity (self-defined, officer-defined, or both).
- any changes in ethnicity recording practices between 2020 and 2026.

7. Definitions and retention

Please provide

- the force's working definition of "death in custody".
- the retention period for custody-related death records.

Exemptions

If you believe any exemption applies identify the precise statutory exemption.

provide full reasoning where a public interest test is required – and the qualified person who made that decision.

disclose all non-exempt information.

Please note

Section 40 does not apply to deceased persons.

Section 41 cannot apply to information provided under statutory compulsion to the coroner or IOPC.

Section 12 should not apply because the requested information exists in structured form for statutory reporting. And even if you were to trawl manually, they are so few in number that it will not take you beyond the statutory 18-hours/£450.

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

I can confirm that during the period you requested, 01/01/2020 – 30/06/2026, there have been 0 deaths in custody.

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