

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



Our reference: FOI_ 26_0663

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 17/09/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_ 26_0663

On 13/07/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

This is a request for policy documents and procedural guidance only. It does not relate to any individual case and no personal data is sought.

Information Requested

1. Child-on-child sexual allegations
 - a. The force policy or procedural guidance for investigating child-on-child sexual allegations, including where the initial contact or investigation indicates that the sexual activity was consensual
 - b. The decision-making framework used by officers when determining a no further action outcome in cases involving a juvenile accused party in a child-on-child sexual allegation
 - c. Any guidance on what information should be communicated to the family of an accused juvenile during and following a child-on-child investigation, including any guidance on timescales for communicating outcomes
2. Data retention
 - a. The force retention policy for personal data relating to a juvenile who has been the subject of a child-on-child investigation that concluded with no further action, including the retention periods applicable to incident records, investigation records, intelligence logs, and Police National Database entries
 - b. Any guidance on whether and in what circumstances intelligence records or PND entries relating to a juvenile NFA subject should be reviewed, amended, or deleted following the conclusion of an investigation
3. Welfare obligations
 - a. Any force guidance or protocol addressing the welfare of a juvenile accused party during a child-on-child investigation, including any guidance on liaison with schools or children's services regarding the accused child's welfare

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

The answers to the requests are below:

1. Child-on-child sexual allegations:
 - a. There is no specific force policy for child-on-child sexual allegations. Crimes are allocated based on ensuring the right skills are present to investigate following the Gloucestershire Constabulary's Crime Management Framework, and then investigators will follow the College of Policing APP for investigating child sexual abuse, Operation Hydrant investigating child sexual abuse and collaborative practice in Working Together 2026
 - b. Decision makers follow national best practice considering the CPS directors guidance on evidential and public interest thresholds, aligned with operation Soteria best practice national guidance.
 - c. There is no guidance on what information should be communicated, however through working collaboratively with partners a collective agreed process is discussed in strategy meetings on what should be shared, how and when. This will be discussed on a case-by-case basis.
2. Data retention:
 - a. Force and national retention policies for all material relating to child sexual abuse is retained for up to 100 years.
 - b. There is no known guidance on what circumstances would allow for any juvenile records to be amended or deleted beyond the retention policy. The police have the responsibility to review cases where new information comes to light warranting the further review. The closure of crime follow the national crime recording standards and represent the findings of the case, including the status of any suspect. There is no single policy for juveniles.
3. Welfare obligations:
 - a. All children are considered vulnerable by age and so feature in consideration at the commencement of any investigation on safety and welfare. The provisions for on-going assessment and support comes from partnership working and the early strategy meeting and subsequent professionals meeting that should take place. These are covered in the working together 2026 practice and link into information sharing with school and all services around those children, whether suspect or victim.

Useful links third party links that have been mentioned with the reply:

[Investigating child abuse and safeguarding children | College of Policing](#)

[The Hydrant Programme](#)

[Working together to safeguard children 2026](#)

[Director's Guidance on Charging, sixth edition, December 2020, incorporating the National File Standard | The Crown Prosecution Service](#)

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