

Gloucestershire Constabulary
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Our reference: FOI_26_0686

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Date: 28/07/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_26_0686

On 18/07/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding your force's current arrangements for dealing with incidents and investigations involving dangerous dogs and offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.

Please provide the following information:

1. Dedicated dangerous dog function

Does your force currently operate a dedicated dangerous dog team, unit, or specialist function?

Please confirm which of the following applies:

Yes – dedicated standalone team/unit

Yes – specialist function within another department

No – dangerous dog investigations are managed through general policing teams

Other – please provide details

2. Structure and location within the organisation

If a dedicated team or specialist function exists:

a) What is the name of the team/function?

b) Which department does it sit within?

(e.g. Local Policing, CID, Public Protection, Specialist Operations, Operational Support, or other)

c) Is the function:

Force-wide;
Locally managed by individual commands/divisions;
Provided through collaboration with another force or organisation?

3. Staffing levels

Please provide the current staffing establishment for this function, expressed as full-time equivalent (FTE) where possible.

Please provide a breakdown of:

Police officers (including rank breakdown)
Police staff
PCSOs
Other personnel (please specify)

4. Dedicated or wider duties

Are personnel allocated solely to dangerous dog work, or do they undertake other duties?

If they undertake other duties, please provide a brief description of those additional responsibilities.

5. Specialist roles

Does your force have any of the following roles:

Dog Legislation Officer (DLO)
Dangerous dog coordinator/lead
Police staff member(s) dedicated to dangerous dog administration or case management
Other personnel whose sole role, or additional role, involves dangerous dog investigation, tactical advice, or specialist support
If yes, please provide the number of posts and whether they are full-time or part-time.

6. Training and accreditation

Does your force provide any dedicated training or accreditation for officers/staff undertaking dangerous dog investigations?

If yes, please provide details of the training provided.

7. Operational model

Please provide a brief description of how dangerous dog incidents are managed within your force, including whether:

Initial response is provided by general policing teams;
Investigations are subsequently transferred to specialist staff;
Specialist staff provide advice/support only.

8. Policies and documents

Please provide copies of any publicly releasable documents that describe the role, remit, or operating model of your dangerous dog function (for example role profiles, terms of reference, guidance documents, or similar).

For clarity, this request relates to dangerous dog investigation/enforcement functions and not police dog units or operational police dogs.

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

Following receipt of your request, one of the constabulary's subject matter experts (SMEs) conducted a search for the relevant and recorded information in response to the questions you asked. Their responses can be found below.

1. Dedicated dangerous dog function

Does your force currently operate a dedicated dangerous dog team, unit, or specialist function?

- Specialist function within another department
 - *Yes, this applies to Gloucestershire Constabulary*
- Other
 - *Across Gloucestershire Constabulary, dangerous dog incidents can be dealt with by the Dog Section and general policing teams as it depends on the offence*

2. Structure and location within the organisation

a) What is the name of the team/function? – *Gloucestershire Constabulary Dog Section - Dog Legislation Officer*

b) Which department does it sit within? *Gloucestershire Constabulary Special Ops*

c) Is the function:

- Force-wide - Yes

3. Staffing levels

Please provide the current staffing establishment for this function, expressed as full-time equivalent (FTE) where possible.

Police officers (including rank breakdown) – *1 x police sergeant / 15 x police constables (dog section)*

Police staff - 2

PCSOs - 0

Other personnel (please specify) - 0

4. Dedicated or wider duties

Are personnel allocated solely to dangerous dog work, or do they undertake other duties?

- *They undertake other duties.*

5. Specialist roles

Dog Legislation Officer (DLO)

- *5 x police constables / 2 x police staff*

Dangerous dog coordinator/lead

- *1 x police sergeant for the dog section*

Police staff member(s) dedicated to dangerous dog administration or case management

- *2 police staff members*

Other personnel whose sole role, or additional role, involves dangerous dog investigation, tactical advice, or specialist support

- *None*

6. Training and accreditation

Does your force provide any dedicated training or accreditation for officers/staff undertaking dangerous dog investigations?

- *No*

7. Operational model

Please provide a brief description of how dangerous dog incidents are managed within your force, including whether:

Initial response is provided by general policing teams

- *Yes*

Investigations are subsequently transferred to specialist staff

- *Yes*

Specialist staff provide advice/support only

- *Yes*

8. Policies and documents

Please provide copies of any publicly releasable documents that describe the role, remit, or operating model of your dangerous dog function (for example role profiles, terms of reference, guidance documents, or similar)

- *No information held*

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