

Gloucestershire Constabulary
Police Headquarters
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www.gloucestershire.police.uk



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_26_0695

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 26/08/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI 26_0695

On 22/07/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. The number of allegations, investigations or recorded cases involving police officers or police staff accessing police-held information or police systems without a legitimate policing purpose.
2. The number of recorded cases involving the unauthorised disclosure or sharing of information obtained through police-held information or police systems.
3. For each year, please state the outcome of those cases, including (where recorded) whether they resulted in misconduct proceedings, dismissal, resignation, a written warning, management action, criminal investigation or no further action.
4. Please provide a brief anonymised summary of the nature of the misconduct in each case, where held (e.g. accessing information relating to family members, friends, neighbours, former partners, celebrities or ongoing investigations).

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

In relation to Q4, Gloucestershire Constabulary confirm it holds some relevant information in relation to your request, however the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply by virtue of the following exemption:

Section 30 – Investigations and proceedings conducted by public authorities.

Section 17 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. With regards to the disclosure of your request, the following exemptions apply

Section 30 - Investigations and proceedings conducted by public authorities

Section 30 is a class based qualified exemption and consideration of the public interest must be conducted.

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.

Please see the response to your request below.

The data obtained covers the period of your request, which is from the 1st of January 2022 to the date of your request which is the 22nd of July 2026.

1. There have been 18 allegations of improper use and/or access of police systems and information.
2. Of the 18 allegations, 11 cases relate to information being shared without a policing purpose.
3. In relation to the 11 cases identified, 7 cases remain live misconduct investigations and 4 cases have been resolved with the below outcomes:

No case to answer

Resigned ahead of Misconduct hearing – Would have been dismissed

Misconduct Hearing - Final Written Warning

Misconduct Hearing - Final Written Warning

4. In relation to the summary of misconduct, we can provide the initial misconduct summary for the 4 cases which have been finalised.

Summary of Misconduct
On [REDACTED] you accessed police incident [REDACTED].
It is alleged that in accessing this incident, you did not treat [REDACTED] information recorded on the incident with due respect, and you disclosed it outside the proper course of your duties by unnecessarily sharing it with [REDACTED].
You accessed police systems on [REDACTED] to view a [REDACTED] incident relating to a personal road traffic accident for which you had no policing purpose.
Between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] you unlawfully accessed police information in relation to the [REDACTED] record of [REDACTED] 208 times and crime reference [REDACTED] 108 times. It is alleged you unlawfully shared the police information you accessed with the suspect of a live criminal investigation thereby interfering with the course of justice
It is alleged that you have accessed Police systems whilst off duty on the [REDACTED] when you did not have any lawful Policing purpose to access the [REDACTED] system on your works device.

In relation to the 7 live cases, the allegation summary is exempt by the virtue of:

Section 30 - Investigations and proceedings conducted by public authorities

Evidence of Harm

To provide a summary of live misconduct investigations may prejudice law enforcement functions of preventing and detecting crime, apprehending and prosecuting offenders through prejudicing the investigation process. Additionally, disclosing the requested information would risk impacting on misconduct investigations through prejudicing the investigative and information disclosure processes for misconduct investigations.

Impacting on any aspect of investigative functions whether at a criminal or misconduct level would be prejudicial to policing functions, as individuals, including victims, may be less willing to come forward or assist with reporting misconduct or ongoing enquiries if they were to believe that any information relating to ongoing investigations would enter the public domain prior to a completed finalised investigation and outcome.

Public Interest Test**Factors Favouring Disclosure of information**

Disclosing any information held may provide the public with an awareness and help to inform public debate surrounding misconduct investigations. Additionally, disclosing information would reassure the public that there are stringent procedures in place for investigating misconduct. Which in turn would provide greater transparency covering the accountability, investigative process, and the actions of the Constabulary.

Factors Against Disclosure of information

Disclosing the requested information could impact on ongoing “live” investigations which and any disclosure could undermine the effectiveness of any investigations. Furthermore, disclosing this information may identify to offenders whether their offending behaviour has been reported to the Police or if not.

Additionally, individuals may be less willing to come forward or assist with reporting misconduct or ongoing enquiries if they were to believe that any information relating to ongoing investigations would enter the public domain prior to a completed finalised investigation and outcome.

Balance Test

Police Forces are tasked with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. The effectiveness of investigations both at a criminal and misconduct level and the intelligence they provide is of paramount importance and the Police service will not divulge details that would compromise any potential ongoing investigations or the prevention and detection of crime.

For the reasons set out above it is clear that the balance test is in favour of not disclosing the requested information.

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