

Gloucestershire Constabulary
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Our reference: FOI_26_0704

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Date: 14/09/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_26_0704

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

Please provide the following information for each calendar year 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026 to date.

1. Total traffic enforcement notices

Please provide the total number of traffic enforcement notices issued or processed by your force (for example Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs), Notices of Intended Prosecution (NIPs), Traffic Offence Reports (TORs), or the closest equivalent).

2. Cancelled notices

Please provide the total number of traffic enforcement notices that were cancelled or withdrawn.

3. Clone-related cancellations

If recorded, please provide the number of cancelled notices where the recorded cancellation reason was:

Cloned vehicle

Stolen/cloned/false registration plate

False or fraudulent registration plate

or the closest equivalent cancellation category.

If no such category exists, please confirm this.

4. Reports of cloned registration plates Please provide the number of reports or recorded incidents relating to cloned vehicle registration plates.

If your force does not record cloned vehicles under a dedicated category, please provide the closest equivalent category (for example "Suspicious Vehicle") and, if possible, the number of incidents recorded under that category.

5. Strategic documents

Please provide the titles and dates of any strategic assessments, intelligence reports, problem profiles or similar documents relating to cloned, ghost or fraudulent vehicle registration plates produced since 1 January 2023. If no such documents are held, please confirm this.

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

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.

1. A search was completed for all substantiated crimes recorded between 01/01/2023 and 13/09/2026 with the Home Office Classification 814 Fraud Forgery associated with vehicle or driver records (this covers Fraud, forgery etc. associated with registration and licensing documents) this gave the following results to the queries 1,2 and 3:

Date	Total
2024	
Jul	1
Aug	1
Sep	1
2025	
Mar	1
Sep	1
2026	
Jan	1
Grand Total	6

2. 1
3. 0

4. A search was completed for all incidents where withing the freetext the key word “Cloned Plate” was used. This gave the following results (please note that all efforts have been made to remove duplicate results however there may still be duplicates):

Month	2023	2024	2025	2026	Grand Total
Jan	26	46	48	40	160
Feb	31	43	37	41	152
Mar	23	50	42	26	141
Apr	34	49	31	33	147
May	17	40	41	52	150
Jun	20	29	46	52	147
Jul	29	44	68	48	189
Aug	35	36	36	30	137
Sep	26	41	33	13	113
Oct	30	34	41	-	105
Nov	36	42	33	-	111
Dec	46	39	51	-	136
Grand Total	353	493	507	335	1688

5. Exempt (see below),

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at Section 1(1)(a) is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held. The second duty at Section 1(1)(b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held. Where exemptions are relied upon s17 of FOIA requires that we provide the applicant with a notice which: a) states that fact b) specifies the exemption(s) in question and c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

Gloucestershire Constabulary can neither confirm nor deny that it holds any information in relation to systems used for intelligence purposes as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply, by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 31(3) Law enforcement;

Section 31 are prejudice based qualified exemptions and there is a requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused in confirming or not that the information is held as well as carrying out a public interest test.

Harm in confirming or denying whether information is held for Section 31

Modern-day policing is intelligence led, and intelligence changes on a day-by-day basis. Disclosures under the Freedom of Information Act are disclosures to the world, not just to the individual making the request.

Any response that has the potential to undermine ongoing and future operations to protect the security of the United Kingdom would significantly increase the risk of harm to the community at large.

Providing any notice that confirms or denies the existence of specific policing intelligence systems would make these security measures less effective. This would lead to the compromise of ongoing or future operations to protect the security or infrastructure of the UK and increase the risk of harm to the public.

Public interest test

Factors favouring confirmation or denial for S31

By confirming or denying whether any information is held the public would see where public funds are being spent. Better public awareness may reduce crime or lead to more information from the public.

Factors against confirmation or denial for S31

By confirming or denying whether any information is held law enforcement tactics would be compromised which would hinder the prevention and detection of crime. More crime would be committed and individuals would be placed at risk, which would impact on police resources.

Balance test

Whilst there is a public interest in providing reassurance that the Police Service are appropriately and effectively holding information of this nature, there is a stronger public interest in safeguarding national security.

The Police Service is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. The reduction and detection of crime is of paramount importance and the Police service will not divulge whether information is or is not held if to do so would compromise law enforcement. Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing operations and providing assurance that the police service is appropriately and effectively allocating resources, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding the integrity of police investigations and operations.

It is therefore our opinion that for these issues the balancing test for confirming or denying that information is held is not made out.

No inference can be drawn from these facts that any further information does or does not exist.

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