

Gloucestershire Constabulary
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Our reference: FOI_26_0706

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Date: 28/08/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_26_0706

On 24/07/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I would like to amend my request and ask for information relating to recorded crimes only. For the period April 2020 to the current date, please provide the following information, broken down by calendar year and month where possible.

Q1. Recorded Crimes

Please provide the total number of recorded crimes for the following offences:

- Deliver a thing knowing / believing it to be a counterfeit currency note – Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 (CJS Offence Code FC81024; Home Office Classification 061/25)
- Deliver a thing knowing / believing it to be counterfeit currency note with intent – Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 (CJS Offence Code FC81039; Home Office Classification 061/25)
- Have custody / control of a thing designed to make a counterfeit note – Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 (CJS Offence Code FC81033; Home Office Classification 061/27)
- Make a counterfeit of a currency note with intent – CJS Offence Code FC81015; Home Office Classification 061/24
- Make a counterfeit of a currency note – Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 (CJS Offence Code FC81017; Home Office Classification 061/24)

Q2. Outcomes

For the offences listed above, please provide the recorded outcomes for each offence type, including where available:

- No Further Action (NFA)
- Charge/Summons
- Community Resolution
- Caution
- Outcome 15/16 or equivalent evidential outcomes

- Any other recorded outcome categories

Q3. Officer Guidance

Please provide copies of, or links to, any current guidance, policy documents, operational instructions, training materials or intranet guidance available to officers or staff regarding:

- The identification of counterfeit currency;
- The recording and investigation of counterfeit currency offences; and
- Procedures to be followed when counterfeit notes are seized or reported.

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

Following receipt of your request, a search was conducted of the Constabulary's crime recording database for the following crimes, from 01/04/2020 to 26/07/2026 for the following Home Office classifications: 061/24, 061/25 & 061/27. The data was filtered by year and month. The relevant and recorded information retrieved can be found below.

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.

Q1. Recorded Crimes

	Forgery - make counterfeit note/coin	Pass/tender counterfeit note/coin	Total
2020			
Jun		1	1
Jul		1	1
Nov		8	8
Dec		7	7
2021			
Jan		3	3
Feb		6	6
Mar		3	3
Apr		3	3
May		3	3

Jun		1	1
Oct		1	1
Nov		3	3
Dec		1	1
2022			
Jan		2	2
Feb		2	2
Mar		6	6
Apr		2	2
May		6	6
Jul		2	2
Aug		1	1
Sep		2	2
Oct		3	3
Nov		6	6
Dec		2	2
2023			
Jan		4	4
Mar		3	3
Apr		3	3
May		3	3
Jun		3	3
Aug		1	1
Sep		1	1
Oct		4	4
Nov		2	2
Dec		3	3
2024			
Jan		2	2
Feb		1	1
Mar		1	1
May		1	1
Jun		2	2
Jul		3	3
Aug		4	4

Sep		1	1
Oct		3	3
Nov		8	8
Dec		2	2
2025			
Jan		7	7
Feb		2	2
Mar		15	15
Apr		5	5
May		16	16
Jun		7	7
Jul		6	6
Aug		5	5
Sep		8	8
Oct		4	4
Nov		6	6
Dec		5	5
2026			
Jan	1	13	14
Feb	1	9	10
Mar		12	12
Apr		8	8
May		3	3
Jun		5	5
Jul		3	3
Total	2	269	271

Please note that where the HO classifications you requested are not listed, 0 crime records were returned.

Q2. Outcomes

Outcome	Forgery - make counterfeit note/coin	Pass/tender counterfeit note/coin	Total
1 - Charged/Summons		1	1

14 - Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action		7	7
15 - Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim supports action		46	46
16 - Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support action		16	16
18 - Investigation complete: no suspect identified	1	178	179
21 - Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest		2	2
Ongoing	1	18	19
Other		1	1
Total	2	269	271

Q3. Officer Guidance

I can confirm that Gloucestershire Constabulary does hold some information.

This information is exempt from disclosure however under the following: **Section 31(1)(a) – Law Enforcement**

Section 31(1)(a) is a prejudice based and qualified exemption, therefore the harm (prejudice) in disclosure should be evidenced and the public interest given.

Harm Test

Disclosure of guidance information around the identification, policing and investigation of offences related to counterfeit currency would be of intelligence value to individuals or groups with criminal or malicious intent. The same applies regarding the disclosure of known methodologies used by police to identify potential counterfeit currency and the advice provided to retailers. If all Forces disclosed this information, it would also enable those individuals or groups to build a national mosaic picture of the tactics used by Forces to combat counterfeit currency, which would undermine law enforcement capability. This would jeopardise public safety on both a local and national scale.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure:

Disclosure would reassure the public that police forces are aware of the crimes and methods to resolve crimes concerning counterfeit money. This would build trust and confidence between the public and police forces.

Factors favouring non-disclosure:

Releasing detailed information regarding how Gloucestershire Constabulary handles, identifies and investigates counterfeit currency offences would provide criminals with a

tactical advantage by revealing operational capabilities and specialist resources. It would not only undermine law enforcement effectiveness but also allow offenders to take steps to evade detection or destroy evidence. This would also negatively impact public safety.

Balance Test

The public interest in transparency does not outweigh the substantial risk of harm caused by disclosure. Publishing detailed information regarding how Gloucestershire Constabulary handles, identifies and investigates counterfeit currency offences would provide criminals with a tactical advantage by revealing operational capabilities and specialist resources. Gloucestershire Constabulary must uphold the law to keep people safe. Disclosure of this detailed information would compromise both of those key objectives. In addition, disclosure of this information would enable offenders to change or alter their tactics to avoid detection – with the likelihood that more crime would be committed accordingly. Due to the identified risks to Law Enforcement and risks to the members of the public, disclosure of this information is not in the public interest.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Gloucestershire Constabulary, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states that fact
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The exemption applicable to the information requested is

- Section 31(1)(a): Law Enforcement

In accordance with section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this particular part of your request.

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