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Date: 30/09/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 26_0748

On 05/08/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Please provide the following information for the 2 year period between June 2024 and May 2026.

1. Number of people reported to your force for illegal possession of puberty blockers?
2. Number of people charged with illegal possession of puberty blockers?
3. Number of people prosecuted for illegal possession of puberty blockers
4. Relationship between the people making the reports and those reported for illegal possession of puberty blockers, if known?

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

1. Please see below exemption
2. 0
3. 0
4. Please see below exemption

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.

The following exemptions applies:

Section 30 – Investigations and proceedings conducted by public authorities

Section 31(1)(a) – Law Enforcement

The exemptions above are qualified and prejudice based therefore both a Public Interest Test and Harm Test are required.

Harm Test

Whilst some information may be disclosed in response to this request, Gloucestershire Constabulary can neither confirm nor deny whether any further information is held. The disclosed figure, where provided, reflects only those reports that can safely be included within an aggregate response. Gloucestershire Constabulary can neither confirm nor deny whether any additional reports exist which fall outside that disclosed figure.

To confirm or deny whether further information is held would itself reveal information about the existence of reports where an alleged perpetrator has not yet been identified, approached, interviewed, or otherwise made aware that a report has been made. In such circumstances, confirmation or denial could directly undermine the purpose of the NCND position by indicating whether a particular individual is, or is not, currently the subject of police interest.

Disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is disclosure to the world at large. A confirmed position regarding the existence or absence of further information may therefore enable individuals to make inferences about whether police have received information relating to them, whether investigative enquiries are ongoing, or whether any law enforcement interest exists.

There is a real risk that such disclosures could prejudice current or future investigations by alerting individuals to police interest at a stage where enquiries remain ongoing or where officers have not yet had the opportunity to engage with those individuals. The cumulative effect of confirming or denying information in circumstances of this nature would weaken established NCND positions designed to protect investigative activity, preserve opportunities to obtain evidence, and safeguard personal information.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring Confirming or Denying for Section 30

Confirmation or denial would promote openness and transparency regarding police investigations and would assist public understanding of how the police record, investigate, and manage matters reported to them. Disclosure may increase public confidence that Gloucestershire Constabulary appropriately investigates allegations and exercises its powers responsibly. There is a general public interest in ensuring accountability for police decision making and the use of public resources.

Factors favouring Neither Confirming nor Denying for Section 30

There is a stronger public interest in protecting the integrity of investigative processes. Confirming or denying whether further information is held could reveal the existence of reports relating to individuals who are not yet aware that allegations have been made against them or that police interest exists. Such disclosures may compromise investigative opportunities, affect the collection of evidence, influence witness accounts, or alter the behaviour of those concerned.

The public interest is not served by a disclosure that risks undermining police enquiries or revealing sensitive investigative information through inference. The effectiveness of law

enforcement depends upon police being able to receive, assess, and investigate reports without prematurely disclosing whether particular individuals are the subject of attention.

Factors favouring Confirming or Denying for Section 31

Confirmation or denial would contribute to public understanding of policing activity and may increase transparency regarding the way reports are handled. Disclosure could assist public scrutiny of how law enforcement resources are deployed in relation to allegations concerning puberty blockers and support broader public debate on the issue.

Factors favouring Neither Confirming nor Denying for Section 31

Confirming or denying whether additional information is held would be capable of revealing whether police have received information relating to individuals who remain unaware of any report. Such information could be of value to those seeking to determine whether they are currently of interest to law enforcement.

The ability of police to prevent and detect crime relies in part upon individuals not being able to use public disclosures to assess whether allegations have been reported, recorded, or are subject to ongoing consideration. Confirmation or denial in these circumstances could undermine law enforcement activity by revealing information about police knowledge, investigative status, or operational interest which would not otherwise be available.

Balance Test

The Police Service is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing equipment, , greater weight has been given to the need to protect investigative processes, maintain effective law enforcement capability and safeguard personal information.

Confirmation or denial would itself reveal information capable of causing prejudice to policing functions and may disclose personal data relating to identifiable individuals.

Therefore it is our opinion that the balance of the public interest favours withholding the information.

In accordance with the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this 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