

Gloucestershire Constabulary
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Our reference: FOI_26_0759

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Postal Address: As above

Date: 03/09/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_26_0759

On 11/08/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. Would it be possible to receive the Fire evacuation policy for the compass house custody suite / police site.
2. How many times was the compass house custody suite completely full. All 50 cells were occupied. Please provide the number of times this has happened in the Callander year of 2025 or if there were 0 times. The last time it happened
3. What's the total number of toilets in the whole facility. Actual toilets not bathrooms please.

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

Gloucestershire Constabulary can confirm that it holds some relevant information relating to your request, however the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply to part of your request by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 31(1) (b) - Law Enforcement
Section 38 – Health and Safety

These are qualified, prejudice-based exemptions and therefore there is a requirement to evidence the harm and consider the public interest test.

Please see the response to your request below

1. In relation to Q1, the following exemptions apply:
Section 31(1) (b) - Law Enforcement
Section 38 – Health and Safety.
2. The custody suite has not been recorded as at maximum capacity on any occasion.
3. The custody suite is equipped with 61 toilets.

Evidence of Harm

The disclosure of information via the FOIA, can be considered as releasing information into the public domain and it is widely accepted that individuals and groups with nefarious intentions monitor the release of information under the FOIA. Disclosing information surrounding operational emergency planning in the form of fire evacuation procedures and policies would risk impacting on the operational running of the custody suite, which if affected would severely impact on the constabulary's ability to operate effectively and one of the overarching law enforcement goals of the apprehension of offenders could be impacted.

The disclosure of the requested information could be used by detainees or others seeking to evade lawful detention, obstruct police operations, or exploit any perceived A5563 vulnerabilities during emergency evacuations. Which would clearly pose a risk to the wider A5563 public.

Factors favouring disclosure for section 31(1) and 38(1)

Disclosing the requested information may provide the public reassurance that there are stringent fire safety and evacuation procedures in place.

Factors favouring non-disclosure for section 31(1) and 38(1)

Officers and staff based within the custody suite conduct operational policing duties such as processing detainees in and out of custody suites, ensuring the welfare of these individuals, and ensuring compliance with legislation such as the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) Code C which governs the detention, treatment, and interviewing of suspects. The disclosure of the requested information could be used by detainees or others seeking to evade lawful detention, obstruct police operations, or exploit any perceived vulnerabilities during emergency evacuations. Which would clearly pose a risk to the wider public. Disclosing information surrounding the emergency evacuation procedures may risk increasing disorder, non-compliance and/or disruption to an effective emergency evacuation which would place detainees, police officers and staff at risk.

Balance Test

It is for these reasons outlined above, that the argument is weighed in favour of non-disclosure. Disclosing information which would risk impacting on operational policing duties would clearly not be in the interests of the public nor the Constabulary. The Constabulary considers that disclosure would be likely to prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

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