

Gloucestershire Constabulary
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Our reference: FOI_26_0787

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Date: 14/09/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request for: 26_0787

On 18/08/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. For each calendar year between 2017 – 2025 please provide the total number of offences recorded under HOCR codes 088/05 / 008/02
2. Please break this down by the following:
 - Suspects and victims by gender
 - The victim ages under the following age groups: under 18, 18-24, 25-34, 35-50, over 50
 - A breakdown of the type of method of spiking using a keyword search of the Modus Operandi with key terms “drink”, “needle” “food”
 - A breakdown of the venue where the spiking occurred
 - A breakdown of the local authority where the spiking occurred
3. The outcome of the recorded offences under HOCR 088/05 / 008/02 between 2017 – 2025.

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

Following receipt of your request, an electronic search was conducted of the Constabulary's crime recording database for offences recorded under the HOCR codes 088/05 & 008/02 between 2017 and 2025. Although we can conduct a keyword search for terms such as “drink”, “needle” and “food”, we would still be required to manually review each MO free text record to determine relevance to your request, as we would with the type of venue where the alleged spiking occurred. For the search made, 368 records were

returned, which, if manually searched and processed, would exceed the 18 hours allowed by the Freedom of Information Act and therefore, Section 12 of the Act is engaged.

Please see below for suggestions on how you may be able to refine your request to come within the cost constraints of Section 12 of the Act.

Section 17(5) 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.

In relation to your request Section 12 applies.

Section 12(1) – Fee Regulations states:

Section 1(1) of the Act does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. (As detailed in the Data Protection and Freedom of Information Fees Regulations of 2004)

The appropriate limit at the moment is £450 calculated at an hourly rate of £25 per hour for all staff time incurred in:

- i. Determining whether information is held
- ii. Locating it
- iii. Retrieving it
- iv. Extracting the information to be disclosed from the other information.

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

Providing Information Outside of the Act

By way of assistance and although excess cost removes the Force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, we have supplied the information relevant to your request which has already been retrieved. We trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

The total number of offences recorded under HOCR codes 088/05 / 008/02 between 2017 and 2025:

Year	008/02	088/05	Total
2017	2	1	3
2018	17	1	18
2019	9	1	10
2020	9	2	11
2021	67	7	74
2022	84	4	88
2023	64	3	67
2024	49	3	52

2025	44	1	45
Total	345	23	368

Victim Sex

Sex	Count
Female	256
Male	96
Not recorded	16
Total	368

Victim Age Group

Age Group	Count
Under 18	21
18-24	157
25-34	83
35-50	67
50+	24

Local Policing Area

LPA	Count
Cheltenham LPA	163
Cotswolds LPA	29
Forest LPA	18
Gloucester LPA	88
Stroud LPA	25
Tewkesbury LPA	16
Unclassified LPA	29
Total	368

Crime Outcome

Outcome	Count
12 - Prosecution prevented - suspect too ill/dead	1
14 - Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action	38
15 - Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim supports action	30

16 - Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support action	23
18 - Investigation complete: no suspect identified	273
20 - Action undertaken by another body/agency	2
21 - Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest	1
Total	368

Section 16 – unable to assist

Unfortunately, I'm unable to assist in suggesting ways of refining your request to come within the confines of Section 12 of the Act. Even reducing the timescale would not reduce the number of records enough that a manual review could be conducted within the timescale but still provide meaningful 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