

Gloucestershire Constabulary
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Our reference: FOI_26_0806

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Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 26/08/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_26_0806

On 24/08/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following for your Force, for each of the last three financial years (2023/24–2025/26):

1. Number of incidents where alcohol was recorded as a primary factor (i.e. directly caused the incident, e.g. drunk and disorderly, alcohol-related assault), and number where it was a secondary/contributing factor (e.g. noted as present in a domestic incident, ASB, or road traffic incident where it wasn't the primary offence).
2. The same primary/secondary breakdown for illicit drugs and, where distinguishable, misused prescription medication.
3. Of the incidents at points 1–2, the number that resulted in an arrest.
4. What system/field captures this (e.g. incident markers, qualifier codes, free-text logs) — and if points 1–2 aren't held in that exact form, please instead provide incident counts for the closest matching incident/qualifier codes (e.g. alcohol-related, drug-related, intoxicated person).

If this exceeds the section 12 cost limit, please advise which part is causing that so I can narrow the request.

Clarification

On 25/08/2026 I sent you an email to seek clarification:

Thank you for your enquiry dated 24/08/2026 requesting information concerning the following:

We are committed to being an anti-discriminatory organisation. This means not only acting in a non-discriminatory way, but addressing systemic inequalities, disadvantage and discrimination.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following for your Force, for each of the last three financial years (2023/24–2025/26):

1. Number of incidents where alcohol was recorded as a primary factor (i.e. directly caused the incident, e.g. drunk and disorderly, alcohol-related assault), and number where it was a secondary/contributing factor (e.g. noted as present in a domestic incident, ASB, or road traffic incident where it wasn't the primary offence).
2. The same primary/secondary breakdown for illicit drugs and, where distinguishable, misused prescription medication.
3. Of the incidents at points 1–2, the number that resulted in an arrest.
4. What system/field captures this (e.g. incident markers, qualifier codes, free-text logs) — and if points 1–2 aren't held in that exact form, please instead provide incident counts for the closest matching incident/qualifier codes (e.g. alcohol-related, drug-related, intoxicated person).

If this exceeds the section 12 cost limit, please advise which part is causing that so I can narrow the request.

To help us identify the information you require I would be grateful if you would clarify the following information:

- If you would like us to search our incident recording database, please provide us with any key words you would like us to search e.g. 'alcohol'; this kind of search cannot be linked to recorded crimes (as this is a separate system) or any tags applied as it relies mainly on a key word search. Please note that the free text incident reports may need to be manually searched for relevance to your request once the search has been completed; if there are many, this could engage section 12 of the FOI Act.
- Alternatively, if you would like us to search our crime recording database (different to our incident database), kindly provide us with the specific Home Office recordable offences that you would like us to search against. You can use the following to locate these: [Home Office Crime Recording Rules for frontline officers, staff - GOV.UK](#). We can also apply a key word to the crime records search, so please notify us of any key words you would like us to search if this is how you would like us to proceed.

If you are unable to give me this information, please indicate how I may otherwise assist you. Unfortunately, I am unable to respond to your request until I have received this information. Please note that if we do not receive a response within 20 working days, your request will be closed. Please also note that 20 working day statutory time period is on hold until you respond, therefore your response due date will be extended by the number of working days taken to respond to this request.

Clarification Received

On 25/06/2026 you kindly sent me clarification:

Thank you for the clarification request regarding Enquiry Ref: 26_0806.

To help narrow the search, please could you search using both approaches:

Incident recording database: please search using the keywords "alcohol", "drunk", "intoxicated", "drink-related", "drugs", "substance misuse", and "controlled substance".

Crime recording database: please search against Home Office recordable offence categories relating to drink and drugs, including (but not limited to) drunk and disorderly, drink-driving/driving under the influence, possession of a controlled substance, and other offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 where alcohol or drugs were recorded as a factor.

If either search is still likely to exceed the Section 12 cost limit, please let me know which specific part is driving that so I can narrow the request further (for example, by limiting to a single financial year in the first instance).

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

Following your clarification, I conducted a search of the Constabulary's incident recording database, for the date range 06/04/2023-05/04/2026. I applied the key word "alcohol" and retrieved over 70,000 incident reports. I would be required to manually check and review each of these reports to determine any relevance to your questions and therefore section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act is engaged as this would take me well over 18 hours to complete.

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.

Section 16 – duty 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 with regards to the search of our incident database. Common key words are liable to result in me retrieving many records which will need to be manually checked. Even reducing the timescale (with 'alcohol' used as a key word) would retrieve thousands of records.
- As suggested in my clarification request to you, you may wish for us to search our crime recording database (different to our incident database), however, you must provide us with the specific Home Office recordable offences. An example of a specific HO offence would be: *92D Possession of controlled drugs*.
- You can use the following to locate these: [Home Office Crime Recording Rules for frontline officers, staff - GOV.UK](#).

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