

Gloucestershire Constabulary
Police Headquarters
No.1 Waterwells, Waterwells Drive
Quedgeley, Gloucester. GL2 2AN
www.gloucestershire.police.uk



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_26_0812

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 16/09/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_26_0812

On 26/08/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. Please provide the number of crime reports for sexual grooming offences recorded with an online marker attached for the year 2025/26.
2. Please provide the number of individuals who were (i) charged and (ii) summonsed in connection with sexual grooming offences recorded with an online marker during the year 2025/26.
3. Of those cases where charges were brought (Q2), please provide the number which involved a paedophile hunter group or Online Child Sexual Abuse Activist Group (OCAG).
4. Please provide the names of all paedophile hunter groups and Online Child Sexual Abuse Activist Groups related to Q3.

On 04/09/2026, you sent an e-mail to offer clarification:

One police force contacted me regarding an identical request with the following meaningful advice and assistance:

"There are many offences that may fall under 'sexual grooming' however these will be hard to capture as there is no flag for 'grooming' specifically. There is a flag for 'child sexual exploitation' that would capture most sexual grooming offences but not all. Would you like data for all offences flagged as 'child sexual exploitation' instead?"

Please replace "sexual grooming" with "child sexual exploitation".

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

Following receipt of your request and clarification, a search was conducted of the Constabulary's crime recording database for recorded crimes from 26/08/2025 to 25/08/2026 which included a 'child sexual exploitation' (CSE) tag. This information was also sorted as per your request (Q1) for an 'online' national qualifier marker. The recorded and relevant information can be found below. A manual search was conducted of the free text reports for each of the relevant crimes for reference to paedophile hunter group or Online Child Sexual Abuse Activist Groups (OCAG). I also cross-referenced the relevant crime records with the Constabulary's incident recording database.

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: 223 crime reports (with CSE flags) recorded with an online marker for the date range searched.

Q2: 3 individuals were charged/summons from the 223 records retrieved.

Q3: No information held.

Q4: No information held.

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