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

Our reference: FOI_26_0932
E-mail: FOI@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 30/10/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_26_0932

On 01/10/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am writing to request the following information relating to communications offences

1. A copy of any guidance or similar issued by your force to officers about investigating communications offences (specifically Section 179 Online Safety Act, Section 1 Malicious Communications Act and Section 127 Communications Act)

2. A copy of any policy or guidance issued by your force to officers about when to make arrests in relation to those offences, or when to use alternative methods (such as invitation to voluntary interview)

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 s1, I can confirm that Gloucestershire Constabulary holds no relevant information.

1. In relation to the investigation of communication offences, namely Section 179 of the Online Safety Act 2023, Section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988 and Section 127 Communications Act 2003 the Constabulary does not hold a localised policy.

2. The Constabulary does not hold any localised policy or guidance in relation to arrests made in connection with the requested offences. The responsibility and decision making for an arrest sits with the arresting police officer. The officer must hold reasonable grounds to suspect an offence and believe that the arrest is necessary.

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