Gloucestershire Constabulary
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Our reference: FOI_26_0976
E-mail: FOI@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 09/11/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_26_0976

On 14/10/2026 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 information regarding the use of Live Facial Recognition (LFR) and algorithmic or generative artificial intelligence technologies within your police force.

For this request, please restrict your date range from 2021 to 2026.

Please provide me with the following information:
Section 1
1. In your constabulary, are LFR vehicles used?
IF YES TO THE PREVIOUS QUESTION:
2. How many Live Facial Recognition capable vehicles are available as of the 13th October 2026, including those owned by your force or accessible through shared regional/national agreements?
3. What is the average or estimated cost per deployment of an LFR vehicle?
4. How long is biometric data retained when an individual is scanned and matched as a person of interest in an LFR vehicle?
5. Of all persons matched as a person of interest, what percentage are false positives, and what percentage leads to arrests?

Section 2
6. In your constabulary, are statistical algorithms/generative artificial intelligence technologies used?
IF YES TO THE PREVIOUS QUESTION:
7. What technologies do you use in your police force which requires the use of statistical algorithms/generative artificial intelligence technologies (such as, heat-maps for crime hot-spots)?
8. What companies are contracted to provide these services to your constabulary?

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.

9. How much does it cost per quarter to contract these companies to provide these services?

Response

For section 1 of your request, no information is held.

In relation to section 2, Q6- yes.

Gloucestershire Constabulary can neither confirm nor deny that it holds any other information relevant to this request as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 24(2) – National Security
Section 31(3) – Law Enforcement

With Sections 24, and 31 being prejudice based qualified exemptions there is a requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused in confirming or not whether information is held as well as considering the public interest.

Evidence of Harm

Gloucestershire Constabulary will neither confirm nor deny whether it holds any further information that would indicate whether statistical algorithms or Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) is, or is not, used in connection with policing areas such as counter-terrorism, serious and organised crime, covert intelligence activity, or other such areas supporting policing functions. The duty to confirm or deny is disapplied by virtue of sections 24(2) (national security) and 31(3) (law enforcement) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This response should not be taken as an indication of whether any additional information is held by the Constabulary.

Confirming or denying whether (GenAI) or statistical algorithms are used by Gloucestershire Constabulary in counter-terrorism, serious and organised crime, covert intelligence or other such policing areas would enable hostile actors to infer the presence, absence or maturity of specific policing capabilities. This type of capability insight is of practical value to adversaries who routinely adapt their behaviour to exploit perceived weaknesses, overwhelm less technologically equipped forces, or adjust methods to avoid detection. Even a single confirmation or denial could be combined with publicly available information from other forces to build a detailed national picture of capability. This mosaic effect represents a realistic and actionable risk, providing information that could materially undermine national security and the effectiveness of law-enforcement operations.

Public Interest Test – Section 24(2) - National Security

Factors in favour of confirming or denying

There is a strong public interest in openness and transparency about the use of AI and how data is processed within policing. Confirming or denying the existence of information could contribute to informed public debate about how emerging technologies are deployed and utilised within policing. Disclosure can enhance accountability, promote trust, and reassure the public that AI use is subject to the appropriate levels of oversight.

Factors against confirming or denying

There is an overriding and overwhelming public interest in protecting and ensuring national security. Confirming or denying the existence of information about AI and data led tools within specific policing areas such as counter terrorism, serious and organised crime, covert intelligence, or linked policing areas would provide adversaries with useful insights into operational capabilities and priorities. Even a simple confirmation or denial could enable hostile actors to adjust methods, exploit potential gaps, or test thresholds. The resulting risk to national security would be real and more than trivial, and is not mitigated by partial or local confirmations, because the cumulative mosaic effect across multiple forces would still disclose sensitive capability at a national level.

Public Interest Test – Section 31(3) Law Enforcement

Factors in favour of confirming or denying

There is a general public interest in understanding how AI is used to support policing functions, including the efficiency and effectiveness of core processes, and in ensuring that novel technologies are used lawfully and proportionately. Confirmation or denial could support external scrutiny and promote confidence in policing practice.

Factors against confirming or denying

Confirming or denying the existence of information relating to AI and if it is or is not used specific use in business areas such as would be likely to prejudice the prevention and detection of crime, the apprehension or prosecution of offenders, and the operation of law enforcement tactics and methodologies. Knowledge of whether specific capabilities exist, or do not exist, enables offenders to adapt behaviour, exploit capability gaps, frustrate investigations, and increase the cost and complexity of counter-measures. The public interest strongly favours maintaining an NCND to preserve the effectiveness of law enforcement and the safety of the public.

Balance Test

For the reasons set out above, Gloucestershire Constabulary will neither confirm nor deny whether it holds any further information. The public interest in maintaining the NCND position under sections 24(2) and 31(3) outweighs the public interest in confirmation or denial. This response should not be taken as an indication of whether any relevant information is 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