Gloucestershire Constabulary
Police Headquarters
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Our reference: FOI_26_1014
E-mail: FOI@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 16/11/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_26_1014

On 26/10/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

For the purpose of my university research project, I would like to request information about manipulated imagery, under the UK Freedom of Information Act. The information I am looking for is:

How often do investigations involve images that are suspected to have been manipulated?

Which offences are manipulated imagery more common?

What are some examples of current processes in detecting manipulated images?

Do you use a software called Amped Authenticate or other Amped software?

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

1. No information held. The frequency of manipulated images encountered through criminal investigations is not recorded.

2. No information held. The Constabulary may be able to provide the number of specific recorded offences whereby manipulated images appears in the free text Modus Operandi (MO) should you wish to submit a new request.

3&4. Section 31(3) Law Enforcement.

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.

Gloucestershire Constabulary can neither confirm nor deny that it holds any information in relation to the remainder of your 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 31(3) Law enforcement

Section 31 is a prejudice based qualified exemption and 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

It is widely accepted that the disclosure of information through the FOI Act involves the release of information into the public domain and that criminals and hostile actors will monitor the responses to FOI requests in an attempt to gain information.

To confirm or deny whether information is held in relation to any specific investigative processes and procedures would be likely to prejudice the law enforcement functions of preventing and detecting crime and apprehending and prosecuting offenders.

Confirming or denying if the requested information is held would be likely to negatively affect law enforcement investigations and processes used by the Constabulary. Confirming or denying the digital investigative process would be likely to prejudice the Constabulary's ability of preventing, detecting, and investigating crime. Confirming any such investigative process would allow individuals to alter their offending to exploit any perceived vulnerabilities within the process currently conducted. This in turn may lead to offending becoming harder to detect. Similarly, denying elements of the investigative process in specific relation to digital investigations would enable offenders to use any gaps in the investigative process to continue offending with the knowledge they could shape their offending to avoid detection based on the Constabulary's processes.

Similarly Confirming or denying the use of specific software would allow individuals to attempt to avoid detection with the knowledge that a specific software programme is or is not used. Any known vulnerabilities with any software confirmed to be used by the Constabulary could risk being exploited. Equally, should the Constabulary confirm a specific software is not used, this may inadvertently increase offending if those committing crime may deem there to be a lesser risk of detection.

Additionally, confirming or denying the investigative processes and software used within digital investigations would enable hostile actors to gauge a broader picture of policing capabilities. If this request was received on a national scale, it would in turn provide a national picture of digital policing capabilities which could be compared on a wider scale. In turn, this would provide a national picture of the policing capabilities of each Force

Public Interest Test

Factors Favouring Disclosure – Section 31(3)
To confirm or deny that the Force holds information may provide the public with reassurance that the Constabulary has effective measures in place to detect and investigate crime.

Factors Against Disclosure – Section 31(3)
To confirm or deny that the Force holds information in relation to this matter has the potential to damage Gloucestershire Constabulary's ability to prevent and detect crime and the prosecution of offenders.

Balance Test

Whilst it is recognised that there is public interest in how in which the Constabulary conducts investigations and the systems in which it utilises, there is an overwhelming public interest in the Constabulary conducting its core law enforcement functions of preventing and detecting crime and apprehending and prosecuting offenders. To confirm or deny information would risk impacting on the duties of the Constabulary would not be within the publics interest.

For the reasons above, it is the Constabulary's position that confirming or denying information held would risk a negative outcome on law enforcement functions and in turn pose a risk to the public. Therefore, the Constabulary can neither confirm nor deny that it holds any information in relation to the remainder of your request

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