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

Our reference: FOI_26_1033
E-mail: FOI @gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 19/11/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request for: 26_1033

On 28/10/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am writing to you with a request under the Freedom of Information act.

The 1951 Status of Forces Agreement (as implemented by the 1952 Visiting Forces Act) makes provision for dealing with offences committed by members of the US military who are stationed in the UK by their own military prosecutors and courts rather than UK police and prosecutors.

I have attached the agreement and the act for your convenience

https://www.nato.int/en/about-us/official-texts-and-resources/official-texts/1951/06/19/agreement

https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Geo6and1Eliz2/15-16/67

My request only applies to the military personnel of the United States of America, with respect to this agreement and act.

Under this agreement and act, the government of the United States of America in certain cases will have the primary right to exercise jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute a member of the US military for an offence that is alleged to have occurred in the United Kingdom (ie asserting primacy over the UK authorities). If the US government wishes to assert jurisdiction, it will make a request to the police force in which the alleged offence occurred.

Under the act, I would like to ask how many times since January 1 2018 has the government of the United States of America asserted or requested the primary right to exercise jurisdiction (ie primacy) over your force with regard to offences that are alleged to have been committed by a member of the US military within your area.

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 act, I would also like to ask - since January 1 2018 - how many times has your force decided to relinquish the investigation of these alleged offences to the US military.

For each of these alleged offences, I would like to ask:

a) What was the alleged offence;

b) Where did the alleged offence occur;

c) On what date did the alleged offence occur;

d) Which base or facility was the member of the US visiting force attached to or working at;

e) On what date was the primary right to exercise jurisdiction asserted by the United States of America government;

f) On what date did your force decide to relinquish the investigation to the US military.

Under the act, I would like to ask - since January 1 2018 - on how many occasions did your force decide to retain the investigation of these alleged offences and decide not to transfer responsibility for the investigation to the US military (following its request).

For each occasion, I would like to ask :

a) What was the alleged offence;

b) Where did the alleged offence occur;

c) On what date did the alleged offence occur;

d) Which base or facility was the member of the US visiting force attached to or working at;

e) On what date was the primary right to exercise jurisdiction asserted by the United States of America government;

f) On what date did your force decide to retain the investigation.

If your force is unable to provide data as far as January 1 2018, I would like to ask your force to provide as much data as possible (ie going back as far as possible).

Following publicity relating to offences relating to US military personnel in the UK, the government has set up a review of cases involving UK victims. This review includes the application and operation of jurisdictional arrangements under the Visiting Forces Act 1952 and how these are implemented across the criminal justice system. This review was referred to in parliament here

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2026-08-28/22816

The National Police Chiefs Council is also involved in these discussions.

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

Following receipt of your request, initial searches were undertaken and several business areas of Gloucestershire Constabulary were instructed to retrieve any relevant and recorded information held to attempt to answer your request. Unfortunately, there is no central database or electronic means for extracting the information you requested, so in some cases, paper files or local drives have to be checked and investigated. Following these initial searches, subject matter experts from several business areas agree and are confident that further investigative work will take more than 18 hours to source, locate any information held and respond to you. Therefore, Section 12(2) of the Freedom of Information Act is engaged.

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(2) – 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 – unable 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. Even reducing the timescale would not reduce the number of records enough that a manual review could be conducted within the timescale but still provide meaningful information.

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 Commission's Office
4th Floor, No.3 Circle Square
5 Hawkshaw Street
Manchester
M1 7BL

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer
Gloucestershire Constabulary