Gloucestershire Constabulary
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E-mail: FOI @gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 17/11/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_26_1092

On 16/11/2026 /2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Q1:
Does your force have a policy, use a tool or implement training to assist in differentiating between unaltered images and altered images?
* Please specify the name and content of each of these factors (if they apply) and for how long they have been integrated into your force

Q2:
When members of the public provide their digital images as evidence, how do they do so? Is there a policy, procedure or feature within the means of submission that validates whether the image has been altered using generative AI?

Q3:
Please provide me a copy of the following information for each calendar year from 2021 to 2026:
* The total number of images processed as evidence that were found to have been altered using generative AI for each year
o i.e X amount of altered images were collected in 2024 in total
* Please provide information on the generative AI platforms most closely associated with altered images that your force has collected
o i.e. out of the X number of altered images collected in 2022, Y were generated using Z

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.

Q4:
Please provide a table depicting the five offences per calendar year from 2021 to 2026 where altered images were most frequently collected as evidence, and a count of how many images related to that offence had been produced. Example format provided in text below:
* Column 1 - Year

* Column 2 - Type of offences (listed per year in descending order from offence with the most altered images present in the investigations, to the least)

* Column 3 - Number of altered images present in investigations for this type of offence (descending)

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

Following receipt of your request, I can confirm that searchers were undertaken within Gloucestershire Constabulary in order to identify and locate any relevant information to your request. Unfortunately, there is no central register for this information and no way to retrieve the information by way of direct electronic or filtered searches.

At present, reported incidents and recorded crimes involving images manipulated via artificial intelligence are not centrally recorded and are only contained within individual incident reports and crime records. The Constabulary's Incident Management System (IMS) and Crime Management System (CMS) do not feature any such tags, flags, or filters for Artificial Intelligence (AI) or manipulated images. Therefore, it would be necessary to manually review all incidents and crimes occurring within the requested time period to ascertain if any relevant information is held within the incident reports and crime records. Any such relevant records would then have to be further explored for any mentions of any form of AI tool used. It is recognised that Artificial Intelligence (AI) is not a single product or program but a broad term encompassing a range of technical capabilities, therefore crime and incident records would require significant manual review in order to ascertain if any information is held relating to the request of generative AI. By way of contextualisation, from 2021 to the 15th of November 2026, there are in excess of 285,000 crimes recorded. In order to process your request, it would be required to manually review all of the recorded crimes which have been identified and all reported incidents falling within the time period.

This review process would clearly take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by the Freedom of Information 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(1) – 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 – Advice and Assistance

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 Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer
Gloucestershire Constabulary