



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 2026/29880

Dear requester,

Thank you for your recent request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at, **Section 1(1) (a)**, is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held. The second duty at, **Section 1 (1) (b)**, is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held.

The information that you are seeking is in relation to the following:

REQUEST

Subject: FOI - Police Information Map - Searchable Crime Data Categories

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request information regarding the searchable data categories and reporting capabilities of your force's crime recording and records management systems.

For clarity, I am not requesting any personal data, operationally sensitive information, software configuration details, access to any systems, or copies of operational records. I am seeking a high-level description of the categories of information that are recorded and whether they can be searched or used for statistical reporting.

Where possible, please indicate whether each category is:

Not recorded
Recorded but not searchable
Searchable
Searchable and reportable
1. Crime Recording Systems

Please identify the primary systems used by the force for recording or managing:

Crime records
Custody records
Intelligence records
Incident logs
Case management records (where separate)



Please provide the name of each system where possible.

2. Searchable Crime Data Categories

For each relevant system, please indicate whether authorised users can search or generate reports using the following categories (or equivalent fields).

Crime Information

Crime type

Home Office offence code

Crime status

Investigation status

Outcome or disposal

Date reported

Date occurred

Date closed

Geographic area (e.g. district, ward or policing area) Location or postcode Suspect Information

Please indicate whether searches or reports can be filtered using:

Age

Age band

Sex

Nationality

Ethnicity

Country of birth

Immigration status (if recorded)

Occupation

Vulnerability markers

Repeat offender markers

Victim Information

Please indicate whether searches or reports can be filtered using:

Age

Age band

Sex

Nationality

Ethnicity

Vulnerability markers

Repeat victim markers

Arrest and Criminal Justice Information

Please indicate whether searches or reports can be filtered using:

Arrest made



Voluntary interview

Charged

Postal requisition

Summons

Referred to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) No Further Action (NFA) Other disposal outcomes

Please confirm:

Whether nationality is routinely recorded for suspects.

Whether nationality is routinely recorded for victims.

In which system(s) this information is stored.

Whether nationality is searchable.

Whether statistical reports can be generated using nationality as a filtering category.

If nationality is recorded but cannot be searched or reported upon, please explain why.

4. Recording of Immigration-Related Information

Please confirm whether any of the following are recorded where relevant:

Immigration status

Asylum seeker status

Refugee status

Visa status

Country of birth

Citizenship

For each category that is recorded, please indicate whether it is searchable and/or reportable.

5. Reporting Capability

Please confirm whether your systems are capable of generating statistical reports using one or more searchable categories without requiring manual review of individual records.

Where applicable, please indicate whether this can be achieved:

Through the standard records management system.

Through a separate reporting or business intelligence system.

Only through manual review.

6. Existing Documentation

If held, please provide any documentation describing:

Search functionality

Reporting functionality

Data dictionaries



Lists of searchable data categories or fields User guidance relating to search or reporting functions

If any documentation is exempt from disclosure, I would be grateful if you could provide any releasable summary, index, or redacted version.

If any part of this request exceeds the appropriate cost limit under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide advice and assistance under Section 16 to help refine the request so that the maximum amount of information can be disclosed.

RESPONSE

1. Crime Recording Systems

Please identify the primary systems used by the force for recording or managing:

Crime records – **NICHE RMS**

Custody records – **NICHE RMS**

Intelligence records – **NICHE RMS**

Incident logs – **STORM Command and Control**

Case management records (where separate) - **NICHE RMS**

Please provide the name of each system where possible.

2. Searchable Crime Data Categories

For each relevant system, please indicate whether authorised users can search or generate reports using the following categories (or equivalent fields).

Crime Information **STORM & NICHE RMS – Searchable and reportable**

Crime type **STORM & NICHE RMS – Searchable and reportable**

Home Office offence code **NICHE RMS – Searchable and reportable**

Crime status - **NICHE RMS – Searchable and reportable**

Investigation status - **NICHE RMS – Searchable and reportable**

Outcome or disposal - **NICHE RMS – Searchable and reportable**

Date reported - **STORM & NICHE RMS – Searchable and reportable**

Date occurred - **STORM & NICHE RMS – Searchable and reportable**

Date closed - **STORM & NICHE RMS – Searchable and reportable**

Geographic area (e.g. district, ward or policing area) Location or postcode Suspect Information - **STORM & NICHE RMS – Searchable and reportable**

Please indicate whether searches or reports can be filtered using:

Age Yes – **NICHE RMS Searchable and reportable**

Age band – **NICHE RMS Searchable and reportable**

Sex - **NICHE RMS Searchable and reportable**

Nationality - **NICHE RMS Searchable and reportable**



Ethnicity - **NICHE RMS Searchable and reportable**
Country of birth - **NICHE RMS Searchable and reportable**
Immigration status (if recorded) - **NICHE RMS Searchable and reportable**
Occupation - **NICHE RMS Searchable and reportable**
Vulnerability markers - **NICHE RMS Searchable and reportable**
Repeat offender markers - **NICHE RMS Searchable and reportable**
Victim Information - **NICHE RMS Searchable and reportable**

Please indicate whether searches or reports can be filtered using:

Age - **NICHE RMS Searchable and reportable, Storm Not recorded**
Age band - **NICHE RMS Searchable and reportable, Storm Not recorded**
Sex - **NICHE RMS Searchable and reportable, Storm Not recorded**
Nationality - **NICHE RMS Searchable and reportable, Storm Not recorded**
Ethnicity - **NICHE RMS Searchable and reportable, Storm Not recorded**
Vulnerability markers - **NICHE RMS Searchable and reportable, Searchable**
Repeat victim markers - **NICHE RMS Searchable and reportable, Searchable**
Arrest and Criminal Justice Information - **NICHE RMS Searchable and reportable, Storm Not recorded**

Please indicate whether searches or reports can be filtered using:

Arrest made – **NICHE RMS, Storm Not recorded**
Voluntary interview - **NICHE RMS, Storm Not recorded**
Charged - **NICHE RMS, Storm Not recorded**
Postal requisition - **NICHE RMS, Storm Not recorded**
Summons - **NICHE RMS, Storm Not recorded**
Referred to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) - **NICHE RMS, Storm Not recorded**
No Further Action (NFA) - **NICHE RMS, Storm Not recorded**
Other disposal outcomes - **NICHE RMS, Storm Not recorded**

3. Recording of Nationality

Please confirm:

Whether nationality is routinely recorded for suspects. – **Not routinely recorded**
Whether nationality is routinely recorded for victims. – **Not routinely recorded**
In which system(s) this information is stored. – **NICHE RMS**
Whether nationality is searchable. - **NICHE RMS (Searchable)**
Whether statistical reports can be generated using nationality as a filtering category. - **NICHE RMS (Yes can be generated)**
If nationality is recorded but cannot be searched or reported upon, please explain why.
N/A

4. Recording of Immigration-Related Information

Please confirm whether any of the following are recorded where relevant:



Immigration status – **NICHE RMS (Searchable)**
Asylum seeker status – **NICHE RMS (Searchable)**
Refugee status – **NICHE RMS (Searchable)**
Visa status – **NICHE RMS (Searchable)**
Country of birth – **NICHE RMS (Searchable)**
Citizenship – **Not recorded (Not Searchable)**

For each category that is recorded, please indicate whether it is searchable and/or reportable.

5. Reporting Capability

Please confirm whether your systems are capable of generating statistical reports using one or more searchable categories without requiring manual review of individual records.

Where applicable, please indicate whether this can be achieved:

Through the standard records management system. **Yes through NICHE RMS**
Through a separate reporting or business intelligence system. **Yes through Business Intelligence**
Only through manual review. – **N/A**

6. Existing Documentation

If held, please provide any documentation describing:

Search functionality
Reporting functionality
Data dictionaries
Lists of searchable data categories or fields
User guidance relating to search or reporting functions

If any documentation is exempt from disclosure, I would be grateful if you could provide any releasable summary, index, or redacted version.

We have liaised with the NICHE Team, and the information is commercial sensitive and cannot be summarised as requested. Please find Section 43 applied below.

Section 43(2) – Commercial Interest

Section 43 is a qualified class-based exemption which requires the authority to consider the public interest in disclosure.

Evidence of Harm



Under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000, the commercial interest exemption (S.43) states that information is exempt information if it constitutes a trade secret or if its disclosure under the FOIA would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person.

A disclosure in response to a Freedom of Information request is not a disclosure to the individual applicant but a release into the public domain. Publicly disclosing these details would be likely to prejudice the companies' ability to successfully engage in a competitive market by allowing competing firms access to commercial and business information which has been provided in confidence to Gwent Police. This would give an unfair advantage to competitors in submitting and negotiating future tenders with Gwent Police or other public bodies.

In addition, with regards to Gwent Police's own commercial interest, we consider that disclosure would or would likely prejudice Gwent Police's business reputation and confidence that suppliers, contracting parties and investors may have. This would have a detrimental impact and threaten Gwent Police's ability to successfully participate in commercial activity, in particular the ability to negotiate best value terms of contract in the best interest of Gwent Police and the public.

Public Interest Test

Factors Favouring Disclosure

Disclosing the requested information would promote openness and transparency in relation to commercial duties and may contribute to public debate.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

The police service has a moral duty to protect the sensitive commercial information it holds about any private company it has dealings with. Disclosure would be likely to prejudice the commercial interest of the company involved and affect future procurement for the Force as the information has been provided to us in confidence and is of a commercially sensitive nature. Disclosure is also likely to damage the relationship between Gwent Police and the supplier involved. This may in the future reduce the number of companies tendering therefore reducing the opportunities for Gwent Police to secure the best value.

Balancing Test

Before deciding which of these arguments is most compelling, a balancing test needs to be completed. In this case, the key factor favouring non-disclosure is the interest of third parties and this needs to be weighed against the key factor favouring disclosure which concerns transparency.

While it is accepted that accountability and demonstrating transparency in the use of public funds is a strong factor favouring disclosure, in this case the requested information concerns the potential disclosure of information which would be



detrimental to a supplier's ability to compete fairly when bidding for future tender opportunities.

I have therefore determined that greater weight must be given to protecting the commercial interests of the third party and Gwent Police in this instance.

On balance at this time the public interest test does not favour disclosure. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a refusal notice for this part of your request.

Please note, every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.

Freedom of Information Act is a public disclosure regime, not a private regime. Any information disclosed under the Act is thereafter deemed to be in the public domain, and therefore freely available to the public and will be published on the Gwent Police website.

If, upon receiving a response to a freedom of information request, you are unhappy with the outcome, you may request an internal review. **This should be made within 40 working days of the initial response.**

Please direct any internal review requests to FOI@gwent.police.uk

You have the right to request an appeal from the Information Commissioners Office about your Freedom of Information request, if you are dissatisfied with your internal review response.

ICO Contact Details:

The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113

Web: www.ico.org.uk

Thank you for your interest in Gwent Police.