



Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0132

On 27/01/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

This is a request for data under the Freedom of Information Act relating to Wotton Lawn psychiatric hospital in Gloucestershire, which is part of the Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust.

Please could you tell me:

1. How many calls Gloucestershire Police from Wotton Lawn staff about people missing from its premises between January 2021 and December 2022?
2. How many of those reported missing by Wotton Lawn to Gloucestershire Police between January 2021 and December 2022 were sectioned under the Mental Health Act?
3. How many critical safety events were Gloucestershire Police called to deal with at Wotton Lawn between January 2021 and December 2022?
4. How many critical safety events at Wotton Lawn between January 2021 and December 2022 related to a death?
5. How many deaths in the community did Gloucestershire Police attend between January 2021 and December 2022 that were related to absconders/missing persons from Wotton Lawn?
6. How many of deaths in the community between January 2021 and December 2022 relating to absconders/missing persons from Wotton Lawn were suspected suicides? (as above)

Following clarification with you, questions 3 & 4 were amended to read:

- 3: How many times were Gloucestershire Police called to attend Wotton Lawn between 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2022?
- 4: How many times were police called to Wotton Lawn between January 2021 and December 2022 due to a death?

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

Following receipt of your request, searches were conducted. I can confirm that the information you have requested, specifically for question 5, may be held by Gloucestershire Constabulary however we do not record such instances statistically, nor is it held in a format that would allow their extraction within the permitted time constraints.

To provide a definitive response, a manual review of all Sudden Death incident records would be required to determine if there is a “missing” episode linked to the death. Following that, a further review would be required to determine if the individual was reported missing from the specified location. We have identified 2,036 sudden death incident records from the period of 01/01/2021 – 31/12/2022. A manual review of these records would far exceed the permitted time constraints, therefore Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act is applicable. This section does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimated that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit of 18 hours, equating to £450.00

You should consider this to be a refusal notice under Section 17 of the Act for this part of your request.

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.

By way of assistance and although excess cost removes the Force’s obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, I have supplied the information relevant to your request which has already been retrieved. I trust this is helpful but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

Police Forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data. It should be noted that for these reasons the figures given relate to

information from the specific recording system of Gloucestershire Constabulary and should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you receive.

Please note that our systems are designed to record information for policing purposes and the investigation of crime and not to extract statistical information. Accordingly whilst we endeavour to extract relevant data within the time limits of the Act, any data supplied is subject to these limitations.

A search has been conducted of the Incident Recording System to identify all calls made between 01/01/2021 and 31/12/2022 where the location of the incident is Wotton Lawn Hospital.

1. A filter has been applied to the data to identify calls relating to missing persons. This has returned 97 results.
2. No Information Held. Whether a person is sectioned or not is medical information. Patients of a mental health facility are not necessarily sectioned, and this information is not required when reporting a person as missing.
3. The total number of incidents recorded is 4,611
4. A filter has been applied to the data to identify records where the closing code is "Sudden Death". This has returned 1 result.

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.

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer
Gloucestershire Constabulary