



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_24_xxx
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 20/11/24

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0953

On 22/10/24 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Good day, I am currently working on a project regarding wildlife crime training and the recording of wildlife crime by the police.

Please can you assist with the following.

To make this query less onerous on police time please, I am only requesting data from 1 August 2023 until receipt date of FOI request.

- 1, Currently how many recognised wildlife trained full time Police officers do you have in your force? Date of FOI request receipt.
- 2, How many of these officers have undertaken College of Policing recognised training? Date of FOI request receipt.
- 3, Who was the service provider.
- 4, How many of these officers are full time Wildlife crime officers. Date of FOI request receipt.
- 5, How many wildlife incidents that have been reported to your force would fit the recording status below if they had notifiable status under Home Office counting rules?
 - Section 1 of the Protection of Badgers Act 1992
 - Section 2 of the Protection of Badgers Act 1992
 - Section 3 of the Protection of Badgers Act 1992
 - Section 1 of Wild Mammals Protection Act 1996
 - Section 1 of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
 - Section 5 of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
 - Section 9 of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
 - Section 11 of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
 - Section 30 of Game Act 1831
 - Section 5 of the Hunting Act 2004
 - Section 4 of Animal Welfare Act 2006

Section 8 of Animal Welfare Act 2006
Schedule 1 of Theft Act 1968
Section 27a of Salmon & Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975
Section 1 of Deer Act 1991
Section 2 of Deer Act 1991
Section 3 of Deer Act 1991
Section 1 of the Hunting Act 2004
Section 1 of the Night Poaching Act 1828
Section 18 of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
Section 9(4A) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
Section 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
Section 28P of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981
Regulation 43 Conservation of Habitats and Species Regs 2017
Regulation 54 Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

6, How many wildlife incidents below have been recorded as below?

Section 1 of the Protection of Badgers Act 1992
Section 2 of the Protection of Badgers Act 1992
Section 3 of the Protection of Badgers Act 1992
Section 1 of Wild Mammals Protection Act 1996
Section 1 of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
Section 5 of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
Section 9 of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
Section 11 of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
Section 30 of Game Act 1831
Section 5 of the Hunting Act 2004
Section 4 of Animal Welfare Act 2006
Section 8 of Animal Welfare Act 2006
Schedule 1 of Theft Act 1968
Section 27a of Salmon & Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975
Section 1 of Deer Act 1991 Section 2 of Deer Act 1991
Section 3 of Deer Act 1991
Section 1 of the Hunting Act 2004
Section 1 of the Night Poaching Act 1828
Section 18 of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
Section 9(4A) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
Section 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
Section 28P of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981
Regulation 43 Conservation of Habitats and Species Regs 2017
Regulation 54 Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

7, How many wildlife incident/crime reports have your force received that have been recorded as "generic/other" (Not to include Livestock Attacks)

8, How many Livestock Attacks has your force received in the time range.

9, How many of these "generic/other" wildlife incident/crime incidents have resulted in No Further Action by police.

10, How many of these "generic/other" wildlife incident/crime incidents have resulted in a Local resolution.

11, How many of these "generic/other" wildlife incident/crime incidents have resulted in a Conditional Caution.

12. How many of these "generic/other" wildlife incident/crime incidents have resulted in a charge.

On 24/10/24 clarification was sought from you for some of your questions.

You responded with the following:

Apologies for the confusion, this is the problem with wildlife offences and the lack of recording it's all quite confusing.

To make life easier for you,

Q5, I am looking for total amount of reports of wildlife crime/incidents received by Gloucestershire police

Q6, from the results of Q5 how many of these are recorded as offences listed in Q6

Q7, please list the relevant offence and numbers of offences from list in Q5.

Livestock attack as defined by Dog (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953

Sorry for the terrible confusion, those who work in this area of policing would have a greater understanding. I half expected the FOI request to be pushed further out to "wildlife/rural crime teams"

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

When an Individual contacts the police and it is deemed to be a police matter, an incident will be created on the Incident Recording System. Please note that the word "incident" in Gloucestershire Constabulary's terminology refers to a type of record, not the event as a whole. If an offence is being reported (rather than a missing person for example) the "incident" will be assessed to determine if the offence falls within the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime. If that incident is deemed to fall within the counting rules, a "crime" will be recorded on the Crime Recording System.

Please note that the Incident Recording System is largely a free text entry system and does not record information in as much detail as the Crime Recording System and therefore its reporting function is limited. I can confirm that whilst there are some recording tags that may be relevant to your request used within this system, they will not answer your enquiry in full.

A search was completed on the Incident Recording system for any incident which was closed using the closure code of Animals/Wildlife, this returned in excess of 1,600 records. To be able to provide details of relevant incidents and cross reference of records in order to determine if relevant information is held or was later logged on our Crime Recording System, this would involve a manual review which would therefore take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by the Freedom of Information Act.

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(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.

Providing Information Outside of the Act

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

To assist with questions 1 – 4 information was sourced from our Rural Crime Team. Please note that the numbers below may not be inclusive of all officers who are potentially trained or deal with incidents/crimes relating to wildlife.

1 1 Sergeant
4 PC's
1 PCSO

2 We are not aware of any College of Policing recognised Wildlife Training

3 Course completed by officers is offered by the National Wildlife Crime Unit in conjunction with third parties such as Border Force, Badger Trust, RSPCA, RSPB etc.

4 7 Full time Wildlife Crime Police Officers and 1 PCSO

Section 16 – duty to assist

By way of assistance I confirm that the Constabulary could search for confirmed offences which fall under the acts provided in your request. Please note this will only provide data for crimes and potential charges brought to an individual. This will not provide you with the number of incidents raised initially to police via either a 999 or 101 call. If you wish to submit a request on this basis, please let us know.

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