



Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0535

On 12/05/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1) Please state for the financial years a) 2021/22 and b) 2022/23 how many of the following crimes were alleged to have occurred and were recorded by your force as having happened in Primark

Assault offences to include all assault offences

5D - Assault with intent to cause serious harm

8N - Assault with injury

8P - Racially or religiously aggravated assault with injury

105A - Assault without injury

105B - Racially or religiously aggravated assault without injury

2) Please specify how many of the incidents recorded in question 1 were a) customers assaulting Primark staff as distinct from b) assaults that occurred between customers without any staff members falling victim.

NOTE: I am only interested in assaults which occurred within Primark store premises. Please exclude incidents where the crime happened "down the road from" or "outside" Primark, etc.

In addition, please provide me with a verbatim copy of the "investigation summary field" and/or the modus operandi (MO) for the ten most recent cases.

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

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 for crimes recorded with the relevant offences from 01/04/2021 to 31/03/2023 whereby the location of the offence included the term 'primark'. A manual review has been conducted of these crime and the following relates to those crimes whereby it's clear the alleged offence took place within a Primark store.

- 1) 1 crime for the dates of 01/04/2021 – 31/03/2022
1 crime for the dates of 01/04/2022 – 31/03/2023
- 2) 1 crime was customer assaulting Primark Staff and 1 crime where the assaults occurred between customers.
- 3) The following MOs are as follows for the most recent cases.
 1. [REDACTED] SUSPECT HAS APPROACHED [REDACTED] VICTIM [REDACTED] PULLED [REDACTED] HAIR AND PUNCHED [REDACTED] TO THE FACE TWICE, [REDACTED].
 2. [REDACTED] OFFENDER HAS PUSHED [REDACTED] GUARD [REDACTED].

Section 17 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.

With regard to the disclosure of the redacted information, the following exemption applies:

Section 40(2) Personal Information

Section 40(2) applies to third party personal data. This would not be released under the Freedom of Information Act unless there is a strong public interest. The disclosure of any information which could lead to the identification of an individual would breach the Data Protection Principles contained with the Data Protection Act 2018, namely the first principle which states that personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to individuals

This exemption is absolute and class based therefore I am not required to apply either the public interest test or harm test in disclosure.

In accordance with the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this part of your request.

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

