



Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0425

On 5 April 2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

When did you start to accept video evidence from members of the public to prosecute road traffic offences?

When did you provide an online service allowing members of the public to upload evidence.

For the last four years what was the amount of the reports per reporter road user type (eg. pedestrian, cyclist, motorcyclist, driver)

For the last four years what was the amount of the reports per reporter gender (or title if gender not recorded)-

For the last four years what was the amount of reports resulting In warnings, conditional offers or prosecution.

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

The Constabulary has been accepting reports for the last three years, initially through the single on-line home service with a more bespoke system introduced in September 2022.

In relation to the road user type who has made the reports, no specific information is held, but the departmental head can say that a significant number of reports are made by cyclists.

In relation to recording outcomes, no specific information is held, although the departmental head has confirmed that it is being considered. They do say that approximately 50% of reports result in either warnings, conditional offers or prosecution.

In respect of your question regarding the gender of those who have made these reports. The departmental head has confirmed that this information is contained within the reports that are submitted, but that it is not recorded for statistical or research purposes. In order to accurately determine the data, it would require a manual trawl of every email submitted to the Single on-line Home service. The unit receives approximately 80 submissions every month. This would clearly take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of 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.

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 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.

Section 16 – unable to assist

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.

Yours sincerely,