



Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0643

On 15 June 2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I'd like to know how many times crimes were caught on 'doorbell cameras', within the Gloucestershire force area, since 2015.

If possible, I'd like that broken down by what types of crime were recorded. I.E - Trespassing / theft / burglary

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

In order to determine what information was held by the constabulary in respect of crimes that were caught on doorbell cameras between 2015 and the date of your request, I initially caused searches to be made as follows:

- searched for substantiated crimes and incidents (minus duplicates and non-incidents) between 01/01/2015 and 21/06/2023
- Searched the Free Text and Storm Log for the phrases 'doorbell camera' and 'doorbell cameras'

In order to accurately respond to your request, it would mean that the incidents that have been identified as having referenced a 'doorbell camera' would need to be reviewed to assess whether there was any crime captured via that method. There is no specific tag on the crime recording system that identifies if a crime has been identified through that medium. Using a free text searching method reveals 485 incidents where there is mention of a doorbell camera. To determine if any of these incidents were not only crimes but were crimes captured through a doorbell camera would require a manual review. This would take considerable time and will, in my view, exceed the appropriate limit under 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.

Unfortunately, I am unable to provide any further assistance under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act as I am unable to suggest any way to refine your request to come within the cost constraints of Section 12 of the Act.

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,