



Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0156

On 02/02/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. How many reports of rape did your police force receive from January 2017 to the end of 2022?
2. How many of these cases were referred to the CPS?
3. How many reports of sexual assault did your police force receive from January 2017 to the end of 2022?
4. How many of these cases were referred to the CPS?

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

Unfortunately there is no central register for this information and no way to retrieve the information by way of electronic searches. Whilst it is possible to retrieve the number of crimes recorded, there is no separate recording process for cases that are referred to CPS. This may be recorded within the crime record, but it is not possible to electronically search for such instances.

The only way of trying to determine whether relevant information is held, and to then retrieve that information, would be to manually review each Rape and Sexual Assault crime record for the 5 year period. This would involve the review of thousands of records and would therefore take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by 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.

Under Section 16 of the Act, unfortunately I'm unable to provide any advice for how you could refine your request to come within the cost constraints of Section 12. Even if you reduce the time period, it's unlikely to reduce the number of crimes enough to make a manual review possible.

By way of further 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.

When an Individual contacts the police (i.e. "reports" an offence) and it is deemed to be a police matter, an incident will be created on the Incident Recording System. If that incident is deemed to fall within the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime, a crime will be recorded on the Crime Recording System.

A search of the Crime Recording System was carried out to identify the number of substantiated crimes where the offences of Rape and Sexual Assault have been recorded between the dates of 01/01/2017 and 31/12/2022. The results have been broken down by year below –

Rape:

Year	Total
2017	420
2018	435
2019	461
2020	502
2021	590
2022	711
Total	3119

Sexual Assault:

Year	Total
2017	395
2018	432
2019	436
2020	486

2021	705
2022	930
Total	3384

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.

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