



Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0195

On 10/02/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. How many people have been arrested whilst in a mental health crisis or people with mental ill health – people who are taken into custody who are given a warning marker of “suicidal” or “attempted suicide” on their arrest record or have these markers on their crime record as recorded suspects, or already have these warning markers on their crime record at the time of arrest – I’d like the figures for 1st January to 31st December 2019, 1st January to 31st December 2020, 1st January to 31st December 2021, 1st January to 31st December 2022?

Just to clarify, this is suicidal before police intervention, not a result of police intervention, but police intervention because of suicidal ideation, attempted suicide or mental health crisis. This data can include being arrested after being sectioned under the Mental Health Act.

2. Following this – how many of these arrests resulted in charges? I’d like the figures from 1st January to 31st December 2019, 1st January to 31st December 2020, 1st January to 31st December 2021, 1st January to 31st December 2022?

3. How many officer hours at your force have been spent dealing with people whilst in a mental health crisis or people with mental ill health? I’d like the figures for 1st January to 31st December 2019, 1st January to 31st December 2020, 1st January to 31st December 2021, 1st January to 31st December 2022?

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.

Please note that an individual can only be sectioned by a medical professional. Under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act, the Police have powers to detain a person for their safety with a view to conveying them to a place of safety.

A person identified as being in a mental health crisis is not arrested. They may, however, be brought to a custody suite where cells are used as a place of safety. This occurs if there are no mental health facilities available at the time of need.

When the custody suite is used, a "custody" record is created for admin purposes only. As such, we are unable to answer your enquiry as fully as the questions request, however we will provide as much information as can be retrieved from alternative sources.

Q1. In order to identify any relevant information that may be held by Gloucestershire Constabulary, a search of the S.136 Mental Health forms has been conducted for those where the place of safety has been recorded as Custody between the dates of 01/01/2019 and 31/12/2022. This has returned 14 records.

Using the reference numbers recorded on the mental health forms, a manual review of those custody records and associated Person records has been conducted to identify the number where a warning marker for "suicidal" or "attempted suicide" is has been recorded on attendance in custody, or at any time before. This has returned 2 records:

- 1x 2019
- 1x 2020

Q2. 0

Q3. No information held

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