



Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0213

On 15/02/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

- 1/ Please can you provide the annual number of Child Abduction Warning Notices issued for each of the last 5 calendar years, including 2022? Please also break down the type of concern per CAWN where detailed or known i.e. county lines, cannabis farms etc.
- 2/ Please can you provide the annual number of Looked After Children under 18 whom a CAWN was issued for, for each of the last 5 calendar years, including 2022? Please also provide the name of the children's home or company which was responsible for children in care who were the subject of the highest number of individual CAWNS per setting where known (i.e. if 3 CAWNS related to children from one children's home over this 5 years period - this is not applicable if the highest figure was simply one). Not all forces will readily hold this detail, so please ignore if not known.
- 3/ Please provide a) the most number of CAWNS issued in relation to a single child in care/ Looked After Child and b) the youngest age of a child in care whom a CAWN was issued in relation to.
- 4/ Please can you provide the annual number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children who a CAWN was issued for, for each of the last 5 calendar years, including 2022?

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.

CAWNS are issued against adults, and whilst we may be able to identify the number of "live" notices that have been issued, there is no separate database that retains the information you have requested.

In order to identify the number of "live" records, a manual review of Gloucestershire Constabulary's recording system would be required;

Whilst a keyword search of the recording system can be carried out, this would also return records where the word CAWN is documented within any free text sections, meaning that a manual review of the search results would be required to identify those entries relevant to your request.

It has been estimated that this part of the request would far exceed the permitted time constraints, therefore Section 12 of the Act is applicable. This section does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimated that the

cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit of 18 hours, equating to £450.00

You should consider this to be a refusal notice under Section 17 of the Act for this part of your request.

When applying Section 12 exemption our duty to assist under Section 16 of the Act would normally entail that we contact you to determine whether it is possible to refine the scope of your request to bring it within the cost limits. However, from the information we have outlined above I see no reasonable way in which we can do so.

Please also note that the system used for recording is, to all intent, a “living” system that is constantly being updated. In addition to this, expired records are destroyed in line with the Management of Police Information (MoPI) guidelines, therefore we would never be able to provide complete or accurate information.

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 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,

Disclosure Officer
Gloucestershire Constabulary