



Dear ,

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0221

On 16/03/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000, I want to request the following information:

1. The number of coercive control offences recorded by your police force where the alleged victim was in the following age ranges:
 - a) 11-15
 - b) 16-24Please provide breakdown by year – 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, with year starting in April, ending in March the following year. For 2023, please provide figures to date.
2. The number of coercive control offences recorded by your police force where the alleged suspect was in the following age ranges:
 - a) 11-15
 - b) 16-24Please provide breakdown by year – 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, with year starting in April, ending in March the following year. For 2023, please provide figures to date.
3. Of these offences from q2, please provide a breakdown of outcomes (charged, cautioned, no further action etc) for the following years - 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, with year starting in April, ending in March the following year. For 2023, please provide figures to date.
4. The Home Office “Domestic Abuse -Statutory Guidance” July 2022 (p23), states: “In responding to cases of abuse involving those under 18, child safeguarding procedures should be followed.”
Of cases of coercive control where both the victim and perpetrator are under 18:
 - a) how many referrals were made by the police to children’s social services or a multi-agency forum? Please provide a breakdown for the following years - 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, with year starting in April, ending in March the following year. For 2023, please provide figures to date.

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

Unfortunately, it's not possible to electronically search for all the information you have requested.

There is no central register with regard to the number of referrals to Children's Social Services or a multi-agency forum. As such, a manual review of all relevant crimes would need to be manually reviewed for the information. As this would involve manually reviewing over 500 crimes, this would clearly take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Please see below for suggestions on how you may be able to refine your request to come within the cost constraints of 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.

Under Section 16, duty to assist, I can confirm that if you resubmit your request to foi@gloucestershire.police.uk omitting question 4, it will be possible to retrieve the rest of the information you are requesting.

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