



Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0256

On 02/03/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I would like to request the following information under The Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Could I please have the information sent back to me via email, as a year on year breakdown.

- 1) The number of police staff reported for social media activity/ had complaints made against social media activity since March 2018, to now (1/03/2023), including their job title and rank and year-on-year comparative figures.
- 2) The breakdown of the nature of the complaint, the social media used (e.g. Facebook/Twitter) and whether it was made by an internal member of staff or a member of the public from March 2018 to now (1/03/2023).
- 3) How many faced subsequent proceedings, and what were these proceedings (investigation, suspension, expulsion, etc.)?

Please can I specify this refers to police staff employees and police officers.

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

“Complaints” are only made by members of the public. Internal members of staff can lodge a conduct matter for investigation.

For both types of case however, there is no central register for the information requested and no way to retrieve the information by way of electronic searches. Also, due to the change of regulation in February 2020, any data recorded prior to this date requires a manual review in order to determine if the case relates to social media. As there are nearly 7,800 complaint/conduct cases, it would take considerably longer than the 18 hours prescribed by the Freedom of Information Act to determine if relevant information is held by the constabulary.

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.

Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act, provides the opportunity to assist the applicant with any suggestions or variation that may allow a search to be undertaken within the cost constraints of Section 12 of the Act.

It may be possible to conduct searches and retrieve relevant information for both complaint cases and conduct cases logged after February 2020.

If this may be of use to you, you can submit a new request on this basis.

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