



Dear ,

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0304

On 14/03/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I would like to request statistics that reveal the number of corrosive fluid offences or acid attacks recorded in the Gloucestershire area in 2022.

1. I would like to request the number of offences that were categorised as an acid attack or corrosive fluid offence between 1st January 2022 and 31st December 2022 inclusive.
2. The percentage and or number of said offences mentioned in 1. that were recorded as Violent Offences within the category 'Violence Against the Person'.
3. The age and gender of victims of the said Violent Offences mentioned in 2.

You clarified that a search for the offence of 5/7 - Causing explosions, sending explosive substance or throwing corrosive fluids with intent to do grievous bodily harm would be acceptable.

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.

I can confirm that a search has been conducted for crimes recorded from 01/01/2022 – 31/12/2022 whereby the above offence was recorded. I can confirm that the results were less than 5 crimes recorded.

The provide the actual number of crimes or the age/gender of the victim(s) would likely identify individuals and is therefore exempt under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 17 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.

With regard to the disclosure of any further information, the following exemption applies:

Section 40(2) Personal Information

Section 40(2) applies to third party personal data. This would not be released under the Freedom of Information Act unless there is a strong public interest. The disclosure of any information which could lead to the identification of an individual would breach the Data Protection Principles contained with the Data Protection Act 2018, namely the first principle which states that personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to individuals

This exemption is absolute and class based therefore I am not required to apply either the public interest test or harm test in disclosure.

In accordance with the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this part of your request.

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