



Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0355

On 30/03/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1) How many incidents of drink-spiking were recorded by your force in the calendar year 2022? Please search for this data by means of keyword searches of MO codes/Investigation Summary Fields, using the terms 'spike', 'spiking', 'drink-spike', 'drink spiked', 'spiked drink', while checking to make sure that they don't refer to some other context (e.g. 'a spiked fence' or 'spiked hair').

2) Please tell me separately how many cases of so-called 'injection/needle spiking' were recorded in 2022. That is, reported incidents in which a perpetrator allegedly spiked someone by means of an injection, instead of using a pill. Please search for this data using keyword searches of MO codes/Investigation Summary Fields, focusing on the terms 'injection' and 'needle', while checking to make sure they do not refer to needles/injections in an unrelated context.

3a) Can you please provide a summary of the first five incidents of drink-spiking in 2022, giving the content of the free-text fields/MO codes/Investigation Summary Fields in full, while redacting any identifying information?

3b) Can you please provide a summary of the first five incidents of injection/needle-spiking in 2022, giving the content of the free-text fields/MO codes/Investigation Summary Fields in full, while redacting any identifying information?

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

When an individual contacts the police and it's deemed to be a police matter, an incident will be created on the Incident Recording System. If that incident is deemed to fall within the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime, a crime will be recorded on the Crime Recording System.

Please note that the Incident Recording System is largely a free text entry system and does not record information in as much detail as the Crime Recording System and therefore its reporting function is limited. I can confirm that there are no recording tags that are relevant to your request used within this system, therefore, we cannot electronically answer your enquiry in full. As such, a manual review of records will be required in order to determine if relevant information is held, which would take longer than the 18 hours prescribed by 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 a free text search can be conducted of the MO of crimes recorded on the Crime Recording System.

We can conduct a search for substantiated crimes of:

- 005/10 Administering poison so as to endanger life
- 005/24 Use of noxious substances or things to cause harm and intimidate
- 008/02 Administering poison with intent to injure or annoy
- 088/05 Administering a substance with intent

We can then filter the results by way of free text search of the MO to identify relevant records.

From these results we will also be able to provide the MO's of the first five records.

If this would still assist, please submit a new FOI request to foi@gloucestershire.police.uk stating which terms you would like us to search. Please ensure that the terms requested are not generic terms that could be used in general discussion nor that form part of other words as this will hinder the search.

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