



Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0487

On 02/05/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Please provide the number of cases of intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Public Order Act 1986 Sec. 4A) reported to your force between January 1st and December 31st 2022. Your force may record this under classification code 125/09. If held, please outline how many cases of causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress include a sexual element (for example, have been recorded alongside another crime type as a sexual offence, or specifies 'sexual harassment')

2. Please provide the above totals broken down by: age of victim (just 'child' or 'adult' is fine, but more detail is welcome if within the cost limit) and crime outcome.

Note: Please include reported crime, not *just* 'recorded' crime in the above totals. Where reports have not progressed to a recorded crime, please flag this as a crime outcome (for example, 'reported, not recorded').

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

We are only able to search for recorded crimes, a search has been conducted on the crime recording system for crimes under the offence of Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress for the dates of 01/01/2022 – 31/12/2022 this has returned 3885 records. To ascertain if any of the recorded crimes include a sexual element, would involve a manual review, which would take 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, a search of the crime recording system of the number of crimes of the offence of Cause intentional harassment, alarm or distress and would be able to provide the breakdown of the age group of victims and the police outcomes.

If this would still assist, please submit a new FOI request to foi@gloucestershire.police.uk

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