



Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0489

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

I would like to find out the following information under the Freedom of Information Act.

- 1) How many arrests were made by your police force in the years 2021 and 2022 for attempted sexual communication with a child and sexual communication with a child?
- 2) How many of those arrested were charged?
- 3) How many of those were convicted?
- 4) Of those arrested, can you tell me how many were brought to police attention by so-called paedophile hunter groups. These groups, which go under a variety of names, carry out 'stings' after using decoys online. After confronting a suspect, the information is then handed over to police.

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 the information you have requested in relation to the arrests which were made by Gloucestershire Constabulary for attempted sexual communications with a child and Sexual communication with a child. In order to retrieve the requested information would involve manually reviewing thousands of records, 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 for the specific offences as a crime and the police outcomes and can do a review on those which have been reported via so-called paedophile hunter groups.

Please refer to the link below for Home Office Counting Rules of the specific offences you would like a search of:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counting-rules-for-recorded-crime>

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

Please note that the Constabulary only holds data in relation to the number of individuals charged/summoned for a particular offence. The ultimate outcome of these offences depends on what happens at court i.e. whether the offender is found guilty (convicted) or not. This information comes from the court results which do not come within our systems. Hence we record the detection disposals for each case but do not have the ultimate conviction data.

Therefore any information relating to the outcome of a case, the length of sentence or whether any appeal was made is not held by the constabulary, but by the HM Courts Service. Please find a link below to their website:

www.justice.gov.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