



Dear ,

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0505

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting the following information:

How many children (U-18s) were recorded carrying offensive weapons, and what weapons were they, for each year from 2018 to 2022, and for 2023 (1 January to 4 May)?

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

A search has been conducted of crimes recorded from 1 January to 4 May in the years 2018 to 2023 whereby the offences were recorded within the Home Office Offence Group of Possession of Offensive Weapons and the suspect/offender was aged under 18.

Unfortunately it's not possible to electronically search for the information you have requested regarding the types of weapons. This is because the above search generated a result of 291 crimes and in order to ascertain what weapons were involved, a manual review of electronic and potentially paper files would need to be conducted. This has been estimated to take longer than the 18 hours allowed under 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, I can confirm that if you reduce the timescale you are requesting to 1 or 2 years, it may be feasible to manually review the crimes to ascertain the specific weapon used.

Alternatively, if you were to reduce your search to specific offences under the [Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crimes](#) such as the following, it may be possible to manually review the crimes:

8/11 – Possession of offensive weapon without lawful authority or reasonable excuse
8/28 – Possession of other offensive weapon on school/further education premises

If either of these options would be useful, 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