



Dear ,

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0516

On 09/05/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I would like to request the following information:

1. How many men and women have taken a urine test after reporting that they have had their drink spiked between January 1st, 2021, to 30th November 2022?
2. Please can you specify the age of these men and women who have reported this specific crime and have taken a urine test to check if they have had their drink spiked?

You subsequently asked for further information:

Please can you confirm out of these men and women who have taken a urine test, how many actually showed that they had their drink spiked?

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

Unfortunately, there is no way of electronically searching for the information you have requested.

Although the Constabulary uses urine tests to evidence incidents of spiking, there is no central record of when they have been used.

As there is no specific offence of spiking, in order to ascertain the number of urine tests undertaken, a manual review of hundreds if not thousands of crime records would be required. This would clearly take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of the Freedom of Information 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.

Unfortunately, I'm unable to assist in suggesting ways of refining your request to come within the confines of Section 12 of the Act. Even reducing the timescale would not reduce the number of records enough that a manual review could be conducted within the timescale but still provide meaningful information.

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