



Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0570

On 25/05/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

- How many cases have there been in the last five years in your policing area where people have been found dead in their homes where it is believed they have been undiscovered for more than **two** days? Please include the statistics for each year separately.
- How many cases have there been in the last five years in your policing area where people have been found dead in their homes where it is believed they have been undiscovered for more than **five** days? Please include the statistics for each year separately.
- How many cases have there been in the last five years in your policing area where people have been found dead in their homes where it is believed they have been undiscovered for more than **ten** days? Please include the statistics for each year separately.

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

Unfortunately there is no central register for this information and no way to retrieve the information by way of electronic searches. A manual review of all incidents recorded would be required to determine if the record is relevant to your request. Not all reports will be instantly recognised as a death – for example, the initial reason for the report may be a concern for welfare, which then leads to the discovery of a deceased person. As the constabulary receives, on average, 500 calls per day, a review of all incident records would far exceed the permitted time constraints, therefore Section 12 of the Act is applicable. This section does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimated that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit of 18 hours, equating to £450.00.

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.

When applying the Section 12 exemption, our duty to assist under Section 16 of the Act would normally entail that we contact you to determine whether it is possible to refine the scope of your request to bring it within the cost limits. However, even by refining the search criteria to only those records categorised as Sudden Death, the number of records requiring manual review would still exceed 18 hours

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