



Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0596

On 05/06/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

In recent national media articles, concerns were raised about failures to prevent absconds of detained patients and ease of access to high points such as roofs .

It is understood that families reflected positively on how Police interacted during MH Incidents and that front line officers expressed frustration and concern over frequency and ease in which detained patients or others were being placed at risk.

1. Please disclose whether police officers have expressed concerns about seriousness and/or numbers of absconds of detained patients from Wotton Lawn Hospital, if possible , indicating numbers of occasions since 1st January 2021. Please identify if such concerns were internal to police or sent to 3rd party organisations.
2. Please disclose whether police officers have expressed concerns about detained patients being able to access high points. Where possible, please indicate whether the incident was at Wotton Lawn or at another location by a detained patient having absconded. Please include from 1st Jan 2021. Please identify if such concerns were internal to police or sent to 3rd party organisations.
3. Please indicate the number of Mental Health Incidents attended by Glos Constabulary since 1st Jan 2021. Please indicate if any statistics about locations of MH Incidents is recorded and whether analysis by geographic area is possible (providing an indication dispersal of incidents if possible).

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

There is no central register for the information requested in questions 1 & 2. The only way to determine if there is any recorded information held in relation to these questions would be to canvass all officers and staff across the constabulary. To provide a definitive response would require searches of all personal and departmental mailboxes and system folders. Even by narrowing down searches to the most likely departments to potentially hold this information we have estimated that this part of the request 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

You should consider this to be a refusal notice under Section 17 of the Act for this part of your request.

When applying 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, from the information we have outlined above I see no reasonable way in which we can do so

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.

By way of assistance and although excess cost removes the Force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, I have supplied the information relevant to your request which has already been retrieved. I trust this is helpful but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

A search of the Incident Recording System has been carried out to identify all records from 01/01/2021 to 04/06/2023 where the Mental Health tag has been applied to the record, and where a police resource attended the incident. The results have been broken down by the Local Policing Area (LPA). Please note that as the record is largely free text, no further electronic breakdown of the location can be supplied. The only way to identify the exact location would be to manually review each record, which would engage the Section 12 cost refusal.

LPA	Years			Total
	2021	2022	2023	
Cheltenham	794	712	204	1710
Cotswolds	421	325	97	843
Forest	545	408	136	1089

Gloucester	1954	1715	435	4104
Stroud	808	688	224	1720
Tewkesbury	416	386	112	914
Traffic	14	11	2	27
Unallocated	5	6	1	12
Total	4957	4251	1211	10419

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