



Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0609

On 07/06/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I was formerly a senior scientist at the Forensic Science Service, Wetherby Laboratory, and I am now an Assistant Professor in Forensic Biology at the University of Bradford. I am continuing my previous research into the use of Familial Searching of the National DNA Database to identify potential suspects in serious and/or 'cold' cases.

I would like information from the Gloucestershire Constabulary about any successful convictions that followed the identification of a suspect using familial searching of the National DNA Database from 2013 to 2022.

Any information about the convicted perpetrator, the date of conviction, or outline case details would be appreciated.

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

In order to ascertain if Gloucestershire Constabulary has had any successful convictions following the identification of a suspect using familial searching of the National Data Base. In order to identify and retrieve the requested information, all DNA submission records for the time period of 01/01/2013 – 31/12/2022 would need to be manually reviewed, , which would take 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.

Under Section 16, duty to assist, please contact the National Database Service (FINDS) using the link below to submit a FOI <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/dna-database-documents>.

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.