



Dear ,

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0610

On 08/06/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am writing a request for information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please could you provide me with the number of crimes reported to your force that include the word "Tinder" (referring to the dating app only) AND whereby the victim of the offence is under the age of 18.

Please provide this information broken down into categories - e.g., rape, sexual activity with a minor, blackmail, etc. - and for EACH of the following years:

2019
2020
2021
2022

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

Police Forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data. It should be noted that for these reasons the figures given relate to information from the specific recording system of Gloucestershire Constabulary and should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you receive.

Please note that our systems are designed to record information for policing purposes and the investigation of crime and not to extract statistical information. Accordingly whilst we endeavour to extract relevant data within the time limits of the Act, any data supplied is subject to these limitations.

I can confirm that the Crime Recording System has been searched for crimes recorded from 01/01/2019 to 31/12/2022 whereby the term 'tinder' was recorded in the MO of the crime and the victim was aged under 18 years.

The results are as follows:

2019 nil
2020 2 Sexual Offences
2021 2 Violence Against the Person
2022 nil

Given the very low numbers above, to provide any further detail relating to the offences would likely identify individuals and is therefore exempt from disclosure under section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 17 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.

With regard to the disclosure of any further detail, the following exemption applies:

Section 40(2) Personal Information

Section 40(2) applies to third party personal data. This would not be released under the Freedom of Information Act unless there is a strong public interest. The disclosure of any information which could lead to the identification of an individual would breach the Data Protection Principles contained within the Data Protection Act 2018, namely the first principle which states that personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to individuals

This exemption is absolute and class based therefore I am not required to apply either the public interest test or harm test in disclosure.

In accordance with the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this part of your request.

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