



Dear ,

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0625

On 13/06/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Please provide the following information:

- 1) The number of brothels known to your police force within the area that it operates. ('brothels' includes massage parlours and any other premises where it is known to police that sex work is undertaken)
- 2) the number of reports received by your police force that relate to brothels for each individual year between 2018 and 2023 (inclusive).
- 3) the number of arrests made in relation to brothels, sex work, and profiting from sex work for each individual year between 2018 and 2023 (inclusive).

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

Unfortunately, it's not possible to electronically search for the information you have requested.

There is no central register of information relating to potential brothels in the Gloucestershire area.

In order to ascertain if any information is held, a manual review of incidents would be required for the time period requested. Given that the Constabulary records approximately 500 incidents per day, this would clearly take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

With regard to question 3, as this could incorporate any number of different offences, there is no way of ascertaining if any of the thousands of detention records for the time period requested related to brothels. This would again require a manual review of records, which would take longer than the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Please see below for suggestions on how you may be able to refine your request to come within the cost constraints of Section 12 of the 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, I can confirm that statistics relating to crimes recorded under the Home Office Crime Recording Rules can be retrieved for the relevant time period. If information relating to specific offences would be useful, please submit a new FOI Request to foi@gloucestershire.police.uk confirming which offences you are interested in from this link to the [Home Office Crime Recording Rules](#) .

For example, 24/19 - Keeping a brothel used for prostitution may be relevant.

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