



Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0660

On 22/06/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, relating to investigations into cases of unaccompanied asylum seeking children that have gone missing.

For the purposes of this request, I rely on the Government definition of unaccompanied asylum seeking children [<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-children-uasc-grant-instructions/uasc-funding-instructions-to-local-authorities-2023-to-2024-accessible>]:

“an individual, who is under 18 when the asylum application is submitted, is not being cared for by an adult who by law has responsibility to do so, is separated from their parents and has applied for asylum in the United Kingdom in their own right.”

Please note there are two parts to this request. The first part is a Yes/No question. If responding to Part 2 takes my request over the cost limit, or is refused under another exemption, I kindly request you respond to Part 1 with a yes/no.

Part 1:

Has your force investigated cases of unaccompanied asylum seeking children reported missing since 1 January 2022 up to the present date (21 June 2023). Please respond with a Yes or No

Part 2:

How many cases of missing unaccompanied asylum seeking children has your force investigated since 1 January 2022 up to the present date (21 June 2023). Please provide a total figure.

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.

The Constabulary uses several different systems to record different types of information and unfortunately these do not correlate statistically. The above information would be potentially recorded on the Intelligence system, the Incident Recording System and the

Missing Persons System. None of these systems have specific tags/categories relating to the information you have requested. As such, each system would need to be manually reviewed for the information requested. This would involve the review of hundreds, if not thousands of records, which would clearly take far 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.

Unfortunately, I'm unable to assist in suggesting ways of refining your request to come within the confines of Section 12 of the Act. Even reducing the timescale would not reduce the number of records enough that a manual review could be conducted within the timescale but still provide meaningful information.

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