



Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0663

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

[...] keyword search of the number of 'cuckooing' cases in the financial year of 2022-23 and then manual review to ensure that they are indeed about cuckooing.

Can this be done, please?

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.

On receipt of your request, a search of the Crime Recording System has been carried out to identify all substantiated crimes recorded between 01/04/2022 and 31/03/2023 where the word "cuckoo" is present within the MO free text. A manual review of the results has then been conducted for relevance to the above request.

This has returned a total of Five (5) records.

In addition to the above, Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at Section 1(1)(a) is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held. The second duty at Section 1(1)(b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held. Where exemptions are relied upon s17 of FOIA requires that we provide the applicant with a notice which: a) states that fact b) specifies the exemption(s) in question and c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

Gloucestershire Constabulary can neither confirm nor deny that it holds the information you have requested as the duty in s1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply, by virtue of the following exemption(s):

Section 23 (5) Information Supplied by or Concerning Certain Security Bodies.

Section 23 is a class based absolute exemption and there is no requirement to evidence the harm or consider the public interest with regard to ensuring that information exists is the appropriate response.

To give a statement of the reasons why neither confirming nor denying is appropriate in this case would itself involve disclosure of exempt information, therefore under Section 17(4), no explanation can be given.

No inference can be taken from this refusal that information does or does not exist

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