



Dear ,

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0665

On 20/06/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. For the calendar year 2015, how many times was the deployment of an undercover operations involving one or more undercover officers considered?
2. For the calendar year 2015, how many undercover operations involving one or more undercover officers were actually implemented?
3. For the calendar year 2015, how many of the implemented undercover operations resulted in convictions?

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.

In order to ascertain if any investigations considered undercover operations that were not implemented, every investigation recorded for the time period specified would need to be manually reviewed.

Given that this would involve manually reviewing thousands of crimes/investigations, this 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.

Under Section 16, duty to assist, I can confirm that the number of undercover operations deployed could potentially be retrieved. If just this information would still be useful, please submit a new FOI request to foi@gloucestershire.police.uk. Please note, however, that such information may attract substantive exemptions under the Freedom of Information Act.

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