



## **Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0674**

On 23/06/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am sending this request under the Freedom of Information Act to ask for the following information:

1. The number of digital forensic examinations carried out by in-house, police forensic services in the past 12 months or similar reporting period
2. The number of digital forensic examinations carried out by outside laboratories and/or outside forensic science services in the same period
3. The names of any digital forensic laboratories and/or outside forensic science services used
4. The current backlog of digital forensic examinations
5. The number of Forensic Science Activities, in accordance with the Forensic Science Regulator Act 2021, that you are / are not currently accredited to deliver
6. The number of Forensic Science Activities completed in laboratories which are not accredited to ISO 17025

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

As there are so many varying processes/activities that are carried out by the Forensic Department, it is not possible to electronically search for the information you have requested in relation to the number of Forensic Science Activities that we are/are not currently accredited to deliver. In order to do so the whole department would need to be canvassed to determine if any relevant information is held. It has been estimated that part of the request would far exceed the permitted time constraints, therefore Section 12 of the Act is applicable.

This section does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimated that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit of 18 hours, equating to £450.00

You should consider this to be a refusal notice under Section 17 of the Act for this part of your request.

When applying Section 12 exemption our duty to assist under Section 16 of the Act would normally entail that we contact you to determine whether it is possible to refine the scope

of this part of your request to bring it within the cost limits. However, from the information we have outlined above I see no reasonable way in which we can do so.

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.

### **Providing Information Outside of the Act**

By way of assistance and although excess cost removes the Force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, we have supplied the information relevant to your request which has already been retrieved. We trust this is helpful but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

1. Between 01/07/2023 – 27/06/2023 1,353 enquiries have been submitted to the Digital Forensic Unit.
4. There currently 169 Submissions in the Digital Forensic Unit Workload

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