



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_2023_0741

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 15/08/2023

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.2023_0741

On 18/07/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

[...] 1 - Please can you provide the total number of spiking allegations received by your force in the following calendar years: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023.

2 - Please confirm how many of the allegations listed in your response to question 1 led to an arrest and/or charge.

3 - Please provide a brief description of each allegation listed in your response to question 1 .

Note: Please include all drink and/or needle spiking allegations in your response.

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

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

A search has been conducted for the number of spiking allegations received by our force for the years 01/01/2019 – 19/07/2023, along with any allegation have resulted in an arrest and/or charge, a manual review of each incident would need to be carried out. This has returned a total of 1586 incidents which have been recorded, whereby the phrases 'Spike', 'Spiking' and 'Spiked' have been included in the search, 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 a search of the Crime Recording System can be conducted for the following substantiated crimes of:

- 005/10 Administering poison so as to endanger life
- 005/24 Use of noxious substances or things to cause harm and intimidate
- 008/02 Administering poison with intent to injure or annoy
- 088/05 Administering a substance with intent

We can include the record police outcomes and we can also include MO's of the recorded crimes.

A free text search of the MO's can be conducted for keywords as specified by you.

Please be mindful of choosing words that make up other words, or words used to describe other, non-relevant offences.

If this would still assist, please submit a new FOI request to foi@gloucestershire.police.uk stating which terms you would like us to search and the

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.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following means:

Website - <https://ico.org.uk/>

Call their helpline - 0303 123 1113

Email - casework@ico.org.uk

Post –

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer
Gloucestershire Constabulary