



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_2023_0750

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 17/08/2023

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0750

On 21/07/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information.

For the time period covering 01/09/21 to 20/07/23, please provide:

- The number of reports received by the force in relation to spiking via injection.
- The number of arrests made by the force in relation to spiking via injection.
- The number of subsequent charges made in relation to spiking via injection.
- The number of subsequent convictions in relation to spiking via injection.

Please provide the above information in an Excel spreadsheet format, presented as a month-by-month breakdown.

“Spiking via injection” is defined as any incident in which someone is injected with drugs without their consent—also referred to as “needle spiking”.

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.

I can confirm that a search has been conducted of the crime recording system for any of the following offences that were recorded from 01/09/2021 to 20/07/2023 whereby the term 'needle', 'inject' or 'injection' were included in the MO:

- 005/10 - Administer poison so as to endanger life [Offences Against the Person Act]
- 008/02 - Administering poison with intent to injure or annoy [Offences Against the Person Act]
- 005/24 - Use of noxious substances or things to cause harm and intimidate [Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act]
- 088/05 - Administering a substance with intent [Sexual Offences Act]

In a consolidated response from 01/09/2021 – 20/07/2023 there have been 50 Crimes recorded of spiking via injection, this has been broken down by year:

Year	Total
2021	16
2022	24
2023	10
Total	50

A monthly breakdown of the number of reports received, the number of arrest and charges in relation to spiking via injection is exempt under Section 40.

Section 17 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.

With regard to the disclosure of a monthly breakdown of reports, the arrests and charges made in relation to spiking via injection the following exemption applies:

Section 40(2) Personal Information

Section 40(2) applies to third party personal data. This would not be released under the Freedom of Information Act unless there is a strong public interest. The disclosure of any information which could lead to the identification of an individual would breach the Data Protection Principles contained with the Data Protection Act 2018, namely the first principle which states that personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to individuals

This exemption is absolute and class based therefore I am not required to apply either the public interest test or harm test in disclosure.

In accordance with the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this part of your request.

Please note that the Constabulary only holds data in relation to the number of individuals charged/summoned for a particular offence. The ultimate outcome of these offences

depends on what happens at court i.e. whether the offender is found guilty (convicted) or not. This information comes from the court results which do not come within our systems. Hence we record the detection disposals for each case but do not have the ultimate conviction data.

Therefore any information relating to the outcome of a case, the length of sentence or whether any appeal was made is not held by the constabulary, but by the HM Courts Service. Please find a link below to their website:

www.justice.gov.uk/

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