



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_2023.0751

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 14/08/2023

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0751

On 24/07/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

In recent months and years a number of people have come forward with allegations against the scouts for historic child sexual abuse claims.

[...]

MY REQUEST:

1 - Please can you confirm the number of allegations received by the force in relation to sexual abuse claims against the scouts? Please limit your response to the number of cases received in the following calendar years: 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.

2 - Please can you also confirm how many of the allegations listed in the answer to question 1 led to either an arrest and/or a conviction?

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

Unfortunately there is no way of electronically searching for the information you have requested. The Incident Recording System does not have a tag for "Scouts" therefore in order to ascertain incidents that may relate to any allegation of a crime against the organisation, a manual review of all incidents for the years requested would be required. Given that the Constabulary records approximately 500 incidents per day, 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 can 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.

When an Individual contacts the police and it's deemed to be a police matter, an incident will be created on the Incident Recording System. If that incident is deemed to fall within the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime, a crime will be recorded on the Crime Recording System.

By way of assistance I confirm that the Constabulary could search its crime database for any crime recorded where the word "Scouts" appears within the MO freetext. Depending upon the number of crimes retrieved by such a search, we may then be able to manually review the crimes to determine whether the information is relevant to your request. Please, however, bear in mind that this may also engage the S12 refusal.

If you wish to submit a request on this basis, please let us know.

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