



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_23_0776

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 12/04/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_23_0776

On 02/08/23 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. How many Special Constables do you currently have in your Force
2. Does your force allow Special Constables to be based or posted within Emergency Response Teams as well as Specialist Units If so, which units are Special Constables NOT allowed to be based or posted to
3. Does your force offer your Special Constables Standard/Response driving courses If yes, how many Special Constables in your force are trained in Standard/Response driving - If applicable, what are the eligibility/selection criteria to apply for or be selected for a Standard Response driving course
4. Does your force offer your Special Constables the opportunity to become Advanced Driving trained
5. If yes, how many Special Constables are currently Advanced Driving trained
6. If applicable, what are the eligibility/selection criteria to apply or be selected for an Advanced Driving course
7. Does your force offer Special Constables the opportunity to be Taser trained
8. If yes, how many Special Constables are currently Taser trained
9. If applicable, what are the eligibility/selection criteria apply for or be selected for a Taser course
10. Does your force offer Special Constables the opportunity to be Public Order Level 2 trained
11. If yes, how many Special Constables are currently Public Order Level 2 trained
12. If applicable, what are the eligibility/selection criteria to apply for or to be selected for a Public Order Level 2 course

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

I can confirm the following information as at the date of your request:

1. There are 126 Special Constables
2. Yes, SCs can be posted to Neighbourhood and Response whilst working through their OCP (Occupational Competency Portfolio) and in APS (Accompanied Patrol Status) stage.
3. Gloucestershire Police offer standard/response driving courses, and there are currently 8 trained officers.
This is the criteria required:
 - Qualified Special Constable Status (QSC) in either Response or Roads Policing
 - No active misconduct investigations
 - No ongoing application to regular police forces
 - Over 3 years service / completed duty hours (Over 450 hours per year)
 - Operationally competent in attending emergency incidents
4. Not at this stage.
5. Nil
6. Not Applicable
7. Gloucestershire Police allow Special Constables to be trained in the use of Taser
8. There are currently 8 Special Constables trained in the use of Taser
9. Eligibility to be selected for Taser training is the College of Policing Process and the following Gloucestershire Constabulary specific criteria:

Core policing skills must be attained before training. Therefore before SCs can access such training, they should have been assessed as having achieved three pre-requisites in Gloucestershire as agreed by the SC Taser working group; Achieved Directed Patrol Status (DPS) and Qualified Special Constable status (QSC) in one or more of the three areas, and;

Completed 12-months' service since achieving DPS, and;
Completed 300 hours duty since achieving DPS.

In addition, the following qualifying criteria applies in terms of SC officer's eligibility;

- No active disciplinary sanctions or live misconduct investigations
- No ongoing application to become a regular
- Individual must be able to attend and successfully complete the relevant mandatory training (Officer Safety Training)

10. Yes
11. The Constabulary has one officer who is public order trained.
12. To qualify for Public order training, Special Constables have to be Achieved Directed Patrol Status (DPS) and Qualified Special Constable status (QSC) and commit to training and refreshed, along with signing up to PSU.

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