



Your reference: n/a
Our reference: FOI_23_0833
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 14/09/2023

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0833

On 17/08/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act regarding the number of police officers currently serving in 'acting sergeant' ranks in your force. Specifically, I would like to request:

1. The total number of police officers currently serving in an 'acting sergeant' rank.
2. For each acting sergeant:
 - a. How long they have been in an 'acting' role.
 - b. Their total length of service as a police officer.
 - c. How long after completing their probationary period they were made an acting sergeant.

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.

There is no central register of Officers who are currently serving in 'acting' ranks. In order to ascertain this information, a manual review of all data held relating to all Constables would be required. This would take 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 it's possible to retrieve retrospective payment data relating to those officers who have received remuneration for their temporary uplift in rank. This information will still require a manual review of the officers' records to ascertain the information for question 2 so may still attract the exemption at Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act. If this would still be useful, please submit a new FOI Request to foi@gloucestershire.police.uk stating the time period you are interested in.

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