



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_2023.0834

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 2023.0834

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act, could I request the following information:

How many incidents on your system received a flag for 'fentanyl', 'synthetic opioid' or 'fentanyl analogue' in your Police Force in the years:

- a) 2023
- b) 2022
- c) 2021
- d) 2020
- e) 2019
- f) 2018
- g) 2017

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.

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. Please note that the word "incident" in Gloucestershire Constabulary's terminology refers to a type of record, not the event as a whole. If an offence is being reported (rather than a missing person for example) the "incident" will be assessed to determine if the offence falls within the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime. If that incident is deemed to fall within the counting rules, a "crime" will be recorded on the Crime Recording System.

Please note that the Incident Recording System is largely a free text entry system and does not record information in as much detail as the Crime Recording System and therefore its reporting function is limited. There is no specific tag/flag for 'fentanyl', 'synthetic opioid' or 'fentanyl analogue'.

That being said, a search of the incident recording system has been conducted to identify those records where the keywords of "fentanyl" or "opioid" are contained within the free text fields and has returned the following:

Year	Total
2017	0
2018	0
2019	5
2020	6
2021	7
2022	10
2023	8
Total	36

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