



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_2023.0839

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 18/09/2023

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0839

On 21/08/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Under the Freedom of Information Act I am kindly requesting the following information:

'in 2020 (full year), 2021(full year), 2022 (full year) and 2023 (to March):

(a) how many crimes at a Co-op* store have been reported to the Gloucestershire Police?;

(b) how many times have the Gloucestershire Police attended in person to a crime reported to them at a Co-op* store?; and

(c) how many people have been charged to court having committed a crime at a Co-op* store?

* Co-op, Coop, Co-op Group, Co-operative, Co-operative Group'

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

Unfortunately, it is not possible to electronically retrieve the information requested with regards to how many times Gloucestershire Constabulary officers have attended in person to a crime that has the recorded location of a Co-op Store between the dates of 01/01/2020 – 31/03/2023. Whilst we are able to identify the number of substantiated crimes recorded along with the outcome, in order to identify and retrieve the requested information for part b of your request, a manual review of all relevant crime records would be required. As over 1,400 records have been identified as relevant to your request, a manual review would take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

You should consider this to be a refusal notice under Section 17 of the Act for this part of your request.

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.

By way of assistance under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act, and although excess cost removes the Force's obligations under the Act, I have supplied the information relevant to your request which has already been retrieved. I trust this is helpful but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request;

In 2020 (full year), 2021(full year), 2022 (full year) and 2023 (to March):

(a) how many crimes at a Co-op store have been reported to the Gloucestershire Police
(c) how many people have been charged to court having committed a crime at a Co-op* store?*

I can confirm that a total of 1,472 substantiated crimes have been recorded where the location of the offence includes the words/phrases:

- Co-op
- Coop
- Co-op Group
- Co-operative
- Co-operative Group

A filter was also applied to identify the number of records where the outcome is Charged. The totals have been broken down by calendar year in the table below:

Year	Total Records	Total Charges
2020	507	93

2021	459	45
2022	406	30
2023	100	6
Total	1472	174

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.

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