



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_2023.0862

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 2023.0862

On 25/08/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Could you please respond with the following data. [...] looking at information holding and sharing and its impact on missing children.

Requests: for the last 2 years

1. What is the refugee status of the individual missing children (not missing children episodes) in numerical data, ie quantities
2. What is the Ethnicity of the individual missing children in numerical data, ie quantities
3. What is the identified gender of the individual missing children (not missing children episodes) in numerical data, ie quantities
4. Do any of the missing children (not missing children episodes) have Social Care involvement? in numerical data, ie quantities
5. Do any of the missing children (not missing children episodes) have Youth Justice involvement? in numerical data, ie quantities

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

With regards to the number of missing children that have had involvement with Youth Justice, this information is not recorded separately, nor is there a recording field for this information within the Compact recording system. Whilst we are able to identify how many missing children are in care, the only way to determine if a missing child has had any engagement with Youth Justice services is to manually review every reported missing child record. As this would involve the review of hundreds of records it would therefore take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by 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.

Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act, provides the opportunity to assist the applicant with any suggestions or variation that may allow a search to be undertaken within the cost constraints of Section 12 of the Act.

I confirm that the Constabulary could provide the following:

It is possible for the Constabulary to provide 2 years of data in answer to questions 1-4 of the above request. If this is suitable, please resubmit your request.

If you do resubmit your request, please could you confirm if the information requested for questions 2-4 is in relation to all missing children, or only those identified as UASCs (Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children or “Refugees”).

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