



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_23_0903

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 06/10/2023

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0903

On 11/09/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am writing to ask for some information under the Freedom of Information Act.

I would like to know the following...

During the 1994 case of Fred and Rosemary West, Gloucs Police must have removed many bags of evidence from 25 Cromwell Street (not body parts).

I wish to know the following.

- 1) Has that evidence all been kept?
- 2) If so, where is it?
- 3) If not, what was done with it?
- 4) Is there a statutory time period that a police force has to keep evidence if someone has been charged and convicted?
- 5) Does any of the evidence relating to the Cromwell Street case still remain the property of Gloucs Police?
- 6) If so could I please have a list of what was kept.
- 7) When was the last periodic review of any of the evidence done (pls provide dates)

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.

Although there is extensive information held relating to the above enquiry, details of the exhibits pre dates a computerised system. As such, a manual review of hundreds of

documents detailing the exhibits would be required, cross referenced to the property stored. This would clearly take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of the Freedom of Information 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.

Although it's not possible to advise or assist you in refining your request to come within the confines of Section 12 of the Act, I'm able to confirm the following information outside of the Act.

The Constabulary adheres to MOPI (Management of Police Information) regarding the retention and disposal of recorded information. Further information can be found [here](#).

There is no obligation for the Constabulary to review the investigation as there was a positive police outcome. Some aspects of the investigation were reviewed following information being received in 2021. Further information relating to this can be found [here](#).

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