



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_23_0915

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 03/10/2023

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0915

On 14/09/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

PCC Nelson has said on twitter (x)...

'Pleased that last year we cut the cost of rural crime by 29% in Gloucestershire (reversing the national trend, where the cost of rural crime went up 22%)'

1. Please provide any information held by Gloucestershires Constabulary that quantifies the financial cost of rural crime in the county and how rural crime is defined by the home office and/or the constabulary.
2. My concern is the figure quoted refers to financial claims made to just one insurance company (NFU) which may include claims not related to rural crime. i.e would a £80k Range Rover insured in Gloucestershire by the NFU, but stolen in London be included in the PCC's calculations?
3. Please provide any information held by the constabulary which determines the financial cost of rural crime in Gloucestershire by each of the last three financial years and what that figure includes.
4. Please provide any information held that shows how this compares to the national picture referred to by PCC Nelson.
5. Please also provide the number of police officers fully dedicated to rural crime over the past three financial years and if available the number of officers deployed to areas you would define as 'rural' during PCC Nelson's tenure and the last year of PCC Surl's.

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.

When a member of the public contacts the police and it's deemed to be a police matter, an Incident will be created on the Incident Recording System. If it's then deemed to fall within the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crimes, a Crime will be recorded on the Crime Recording System. In order to ascertain how many officers were deployed, a search would need to be conducted on the Incident Recording System. Unfortunately, there is no tag/category relating to rural and urban locations on this system. Therefore in order to ascertain deployment statistics specifically to rural locations, a manual review of thousands of incident records would be required. This would clearly take far 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.

Providing Information Outside of the Act

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

1. & 2. No information held. The figures quoted were from the NFU Mutual Rural Crime Survey. The publicised version of the report can be found [here](#).
3. No information held. No analysis has been carried out by the Constabulary relating to the financial cost of rural policing.

4. No information held. Again, the Constabulary has not conducted any relevant analysis. As this relates back to the information quoted above, this will be information potentially held by the NFU.
5. The Constabulary is increasing the current number of Rural Officers from four to eight and they will be a dedicated team who will have access to additional resources to tackle rural crime.

Under Section 16, duty to assist, I can confirm that it will be possible to retrieve the number of Rural and Environmental Crime Liaison Officers (RECLOs) employed by the Constabulary in a given time period, however it should be noted that their roles are not solely related to rural crime work. If this information would still be useful, please submit a new FOI Request to foi@gloucestershire.police.uk

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