



Your reference: n/a
Our reference: FOI_2023.0959
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 25/10/2023

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0959

On 27/09/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I would like to request access to an electronic copy of information on behalf of the BBC under the Freedom of information Act.

Anabolic steroids, also known as anabolic-androgenic steroids, are synthetic substances that mimic the effects of testosterone, the male sex hormone. I am looking for information regarding the number of people who have been arrested who misuse anabolic steroids.

- 1. The number of people arrested who have been found to use anabolic steroids from 2018 – 2023?**

For ease of collation could you please provide the information in the table below.

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
The number of people arrested who have been found to use						

anabolic steroids?						
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For ease of collation could you please provide the information in the table below.

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

The primary function of the Constabulary's Arrest Recording System is to assist the Constabulary in adhering to Code C of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. As such, its reporting function is limited. The system does not record detentions under specific offences under the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded crimes; instead it uses Reason for Arrest (RFA) Categories. Unfortunately there is no single RFA Category for the offence(s) for misuse of anabolic steroids. Although it's possible to follow an arrest through to a recorded crime and the police outcome per individual, it's not possible to retrieve electronic statistics. Therefore in order to ascertain if any relevant arrest information is recorded, a manual review of all arrests 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.

Under Section 16, duty to assist, a search of the crime recording system can be conducted for substantiated crimes for the offences of:

092/27 – production or being concerned in production of a controlled drug – Anabolic Steroids

092/47 – Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug – Anabolic steroids

092/87 – Possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply – Anabolic Steroids

093/27 – permitting premises to be used for unlawful purposes – Anabolic Steroids

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