



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_23_0972

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 30/10/2023

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0972

On 04/10/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1.
 - a) How many instances of theft from retailers (shoplifting) were reported to your force between 1st January 2023 & 30th September 2023. Please break it down by month.
 - b) Of these reported incidences of theft from retailers (shoplifting) how many were attended by a police officer? Please break it down by month.
2.
 - a) How many instances of common assault, actual bodily harm or grievous bodily harm/wounding against retail staff while they were at work were reported to your force between 1st January 2023 & 30th September 2023. Please break it down by month and type of offence.
 - b) Of these reported incidences of common assault, actual bodily harm or grievous bodily harm/wounding against retail staff while they were at work, how many were attended by a police officer? Please break it down by month and type of offence.

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 it's possible to electronically search for crimes relating to specific offences on the Crime Recording System, it's not possible to accurately retrieve statistics relating to the occupation of a victim. This is because the occupation field is non-mandatory, free text and is overwritten every time it's updated. As such, in order to provide accurate information for question 2, a manual review of over 8000 assault offences would be required. 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.

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.

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.

When a member of the public contacts the police and it's deemed to be a police matter, an incident will be recorded on the Incident Recording system. If it is then deemed to fall within the Home Office Counting rules for recorded crimes, a Crime will be recorded on the Crime Recording System. These systems do not correlate.

In order to provide you with information relating to the number of reports of shoplifting whereby police attended, a search has been conducted of the Incident Recording System

for the Result code of Shoplifting whereby a police officer was recorded as attending the scene.

A further search was conducted for crimes recorded whereby the offence was shoplifting. The results are as follows:

Month	Total Shoplifting Incidents	Total Shoplifting Incidents – attended	Total Shoplifting Crimes
Jan2023	214	32	281
Feb2023	236	33	320
Mar2023	207	31	285
Apr2023	216	32	302
May2023	262	42	347
Jun2023	212	23	318
Jul2023	300	30	409
Aug2023	287	33	377
Sep2023	300	36	386
Total	2234	292	3025

A search of crimes was conducted for those recorded with the following offences:

105/01 - Common Assault & Battery

005/01 - Wound w/intent GBH

008/01 - Wound / inflict GBH

008/06 - Assault occasioning ABH

008/57 - Racially or Religiously Aggravated common assault/beating

008/60 - Racially or Religiously Aggravated assault/assault occ. ABH

The results were as follows:

Month	Total Assault Crimes
Jan2023	878
Feb2023	852
Mar2023	911
Apr2023	908
May2023	1005
Jun2023	1009
Jul2023	927
Aug2023	846
Sep2023	938
Total	8274

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. 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.

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