



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_23_0975

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 2023.0975

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

I'm researching the spread of small far-right groups who are opposed to the use of hotels to house asylum seekers.

Members argue that it leads to a rise in crime in the surrounding areas. I'd like to try and put these claims to the test.

1. Please could you provide figures for the number of crimes recorded between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023 where the suspect was an asylum seeker?
2. Can you also provide a description of these crimes as recorded?
3. Can you also say if the suspect was charged?
4. Finally, where possible can you say if the suspect was staying in a hotel?

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

Unfortunately, it's not possible to electronically search for the information you have requested.

The Crime Recording system does not have a field specifically relating to whether a suspect/offender is an asylum seeker and therefore there is no set way in which this may be recorded, if it's recorded at all.

Therefore, in order to ascertain if the Constabulary holds any relevant information, the electronic/paper crime files of all crimes recorded for the time period specified would be

required. This would involve manually reviewing thousands of records, which 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, I can confirm that a free text search can be conducted for specific terms within the MOs of recorded crimes and/or the electronic crime enquiries. If this would still be useful please submit a new FOI Request to foi@gloucestershire.police.uk confirming which terms you are interested in.

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