



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_2023.1000

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 08/11/2023

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.1000

On 12/10/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Please could I be provided with data from the Use Of Force forms submitted by Gloucestershire Constabulary officers throughout the county of Gloucestershire, providing statistics on forms submitted between the following date ranges:-

01/10/2021 - 30/09/2022

01/10/2022 - 30/09/2023

Could the data provided from each form include:-

1. Subject ethnicity
2. Weapon present and, if so, what weapon / item was found.
3. Type of force used.
4. Department of officer submitting.

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

Following receipt of your request, enquiries were carried out with the relevant department.

With regards to Q2, the recording of a weapon being present is a tick box on the form, and is subjective to the officer completing the form, i.e. an object may not be deemed to be a weapon by one officer, by is by another. The completion of a tick box is not electronically retrievable, meaning that the only way to definitively answer this question would be to

manually review the use of force forms to identify any appropriate reference numbers that can then be used for cross referencing with other police systems.

With regards to Q4, although some information is retrievable from the forms, where recorded, it cannot be determine that the information is correct and required a manual review of the forms to identify the completing officer, followed by researching the officer to identify which department there are/were posted to when the form was completed. Both of these searched would far exceed the permitted time constraints, therefore Section 12 of the Act is applicable. This section does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimated that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit of 18 hours, equating to £450.00.

You should consider this to be a refusal notice under Section 17 of the Act for this part of your request.

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.

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

A search of the Use of Force forms has been conducted to identify and retrieve the information requested. Please note that the data provided is based on the number of forms completed, not the number of incidents. A form is completed by each officer in attendance.

The tables below breakdown the data we have been able to retrieve from the forms.
Q1 and 3

01/10/2021 - 30/09/2022 Ethnic Group							
Force used	Asian	Black	Mixed	Not Known	Other	White	Total
AEP Drawn	0	3	0	1	0	19	23
AEP Used	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Baton Drawn	1	3	0	0	0	15	19
Baton Used	2	3	2	0	0	9	16
Dog Biting	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Firearms	1	10	0	0	2	69	82
Dog Deployed	0	3	2	0	1	30	36
Ground Restraint	3	32	7	1	3	349	395
Handcuffing	70	257	86	17	37	2895	3362
Horse	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Irritant Spray CS Drawn	0	1	1	0	0	12	14
Irritant Spray CS Used	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Irritant Spray PAVA Drawn	3	12	5	0	0	55	75
Irritant Spray PAVA Used	2	8	3	0	0	99	112
Limb Body Restraints	1	21	7	0	3	206	238
Other Improvised	2	15	7	3	3	172	202
Shield	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Tactical Communications	44	207	65	17	29	2473	2835
Unarmed Skills	31	164	43	8	15	1825	2086
Spit Guard	0	2	2	0	1	50	55
Taser Cart1 Aimed	1	0	0	2	0	32	35
Taser Cart1 Drawn	2	6	1	2	0	96	107
Taser Cart1 Arced	0	1	0	1	0	16	18
Taser Cart1 Red Dotted	2	18	4	1	1	185	211
Taser Cart1 Drive Stun	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Taser Cart1 Fired	1	1	0	0	0	26	28
Taser Cart2 Fired	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	166	767	235	53	95	8640	9956

01/10/2022 - 30/09/2023 Ethnic Group							
Force used	Asian	Black	Mixed	Not Known	Other	White	Total
AEP Drawn	1	4	0	1	0	36	42
AEP Used	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baton Drawn	0	4	2	1	0	17	24
Baton Used	0	4	1	1	0	17	23
Dog Biting	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Firearms	6	18	4	3	5	176	212

Dog Deployed	1	0	2	0	1	28	32
Ground Restraint	4	35	11	5	1	382	438
Handcuffing	71	331	89	25	40	3030	3586
Horse	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
Irritant Spray CS Drawn	0	1	0	0	0	8	9
Irritant Spray CS Used	0	0	2	0	0	1	3
Irritant Spray PAVA Drawn	2	13	2	0	2	79	98
Irritant Spray PAVA Used	0	12	1	0	1	75	89
Limb Body Restraints	0	23	4	2	0	279	308
Other Improvised	8	15	2	2	1	248	276
Shield	0	0	0	0	0	8	8
Tactical Communications	45	271	78	23	22	2873	3312
Unarmed Skills	31	225	58	14	9	2106	2443
Spit Guard	0	7	1	0	0	47	55
Taser Cart1 Aimed	1	3	2	0	1	35	42
Taser Cart1 Drawn	0	10	3	3	0	94	110
Taser Cart1 Arced	0	2	0	1	0	19	22
Taser Cart1 Red Dotted	1	29	4	2	2	188	226
Taser Cart1 Drive Stun	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Taser Cart1 Fired	0	7	2	0	0	20	29
Taser Cart2 Fired	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
TOTAL	171	1014	269	83	85	9774	11396

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