



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_2023.1003

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 2023.1003

On 13/10/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, could you please tell me for the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 [current number as of 12th October]:

- the number of suspected female suicides attended by police officers where domestic abuse has been a concern/previously recorded [this can be past reports linked to that specific address or individual]
- if applicable, the number of convictions of a male perpetrator for domestic abuse offences after a woman has taken her own life

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

Unfortunately there is no central register for this information and no way to retrieve the information by way of electronic searches. In order to firstly identify reports of death by suicide, all sudden death Incident records would need to be manually reviewed. This would then need to be followed by a manual review for the gender of the deceased. Once this has been completed, a cross reference of several Gloucestershire Constabulary recording systems would be required to determine if the deceased person had been recorded as a victim of domestic abuse at any time.

Further manual review and cross reference of records would be required to determine if the offender recorded for identified domestic abuse offences has been charged with such offences following the death of a recorded victim.

The above process would involve the review of hundreds, if not thousands of records. Even by reducing the time period of the request, we have estimated that this 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.

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 of the Act, unfortunately I am unable to provide any advice for how you could refine your request to come within the cost constraints of Section 12. As noted above, even if you reduce the time period, it is unlikely to reduce the number of records enough to make a manual review possible.

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