



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI\_23\_1008

E-mail: FOI

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Direct dial: 01452 754304

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Date: 08/11/2023

Dear

**Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.1008**

On 16/10/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

We would like to know the total number of people who were arrested under the Vagrancy Act 1824 during the full financial years 2022/23, 2021/22, 2020/21 and 2019/20. We would also like to know for the age groups 16 -17 and 18- 25: the reasons for arrest and the frequency of each of the reasons.

Additionally, we would like to know the total number of people who were charged under the Vagrancy Act 1824 during the full financial years 2022/23, 2021/22, 2020/21 and 2019/20. We would also like to know for the age groups 16 -17 and 18- 25: the subject of charges and frequency of the each of the charges.

We would like the responses to our requests to be age segmented.

Format of responses:

We have attached a template spreadsheet to this request for you to enter your response. Greyed out boxes in the template do not need to be completed.

Freedom of Information request:

We kindly request the information in the query below.

We are requesting data for:

- Annual total: 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023
- Annual total: 1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022
- Annual total: 1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021
- Annual total: 1st April 2019 – 31st March 2020

Additionally, we are requesting the data to be age segmented in to the following groups:

- 16 - 17
- 18 - 25

- 26 - 35
- 36 - 45
- 46 - 55
- 56 - 65
- 66+

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

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.

I can confirm that a search has been conducted of authorised detentions that resulted in one of the following offences being recorded between 01/04/2020 and 31/03/2023:

- 182/00 - VG24003 - Begging and Wandering abroad
- 182/00 - VG24015 - Begging and Wandering abroad – second/subsequent occasion
- 182/00 - VG24005 - Begging in a public place
- 182/00 - VG24013 - Begging in a public place – second or subsequent occasion
- 188/05 - VG24021 - Gather / Collect alms / Charitable donations by false pretence / fraud
- 183/00 - VG24017 - Lodging in a barn / outhouse / unoccupied building / open air
- 182/00 - VG24047 - Persistently bed in a public place (second or subsequent offence)
- 185/01 - VG24018 - Vagrant – being found in or upon enclosed premises

Please note that the following information does not necessarily denote that the arrest was specifically for any of the above offences but that the outcome of the arrest was that at least one of these offences was recorded.

In a consolidated response, please see the table below relating to the relevant detentions:

| Years        | Total    |
|--------------|----------|
| 2020/21      | 3        |
| 2021/22      | 5        |
| 2022/23      | 1        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>9</b> |

None of the above were aged between 16 and 17. Of the 2 that were aged 18-25, one was seen begging and the reason the other was arrested was not for any of the above offences.

The number of the above offences that resulted in a charge, along with the age groups can be found in the table below:

| Years        | 18 - 25  | 26 - 35  | 36 - 45  | Total    |
|--------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 2020/21      |          | 1        |          | 1        |
| 2021/22      | 1        |          | 2        | 3        |
| 2022/23      |          |          | 1        | 1        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>5</b> |

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](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)

Post –

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer  
Gloucestershire Constabulary