



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI\_23\_1011

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 13/11/2023

Dear

**Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.1011**

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

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information. Please may you provide me with:

1. The total number of knife crimes recorded each year from 2013 to date, broken down by year
2. Of these, over the same time period broken down by year, how many involved the use of a prohibited offensive weapon or blade, such as a zombie knife or machete, or other specified offensive weapon as per the The Criminal Justice Act (Offensive Weapons) see Annex A <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-offensive-weapons-act-2019/statutory-guidance-offensive-weapons-act-2019-accessible-version#annex-a--list-of-offensive-weapons>
3. If possible, please provide a breakdown of these by type of offensive weapon

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

Unfortunately, there is no way of electronically searching for the information you have requested.

Although the Constabulary has a Knife Crime tag for recorded crimes, there is no electronic field that records the type of weapon involved. As such, in order to ascertain if any relevant information is held, a manual review of all crimes that were tagged as Knife Crime would be required.

A search has been conducted of crimes recorded from 01/01/2013 to 30/09/2023 whereby the Knife Crime tag was used. The result is as follows:

| Year | No of crimes |
|------|--------------|
| 2013 | 148          |
| 2014 | 194          |
| 2015 | 177          |
| 2016 | 220          |
| 2017 | 274          |
| 2018 | 312          |
| 2019 | 314          |
| 2020 | 295          |
| 2021 | 301          |
| 2022 | 309          |
| 2023 | 267          |

Each one of these crimes would need to be manually reviewed to ascertain if they involved any of the above prohibited weapons. This 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 of the MOs of the above crimes for specific terms. This search obviously relies on the exact term being present in the MOs and therefore the term having been specified in the report of the crime. If such a search would still be useful, please submit a new FOI request to [foi@gloucestershire.police.uk](mailto:foi@gloucestershire.police.uk) stating exactly which terms you like us to search for.

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