



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI\_23\_1012

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 06/11/2023

Dear

**Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.1012**

On 15/10/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please would you be able to share information, as best possible on the following for your area and jurisdiction:

1. Please can you provide the total number of road accidents and crashes reported in your area of jurisdiction for the period of "December 1, 2021, to February 29 2022" and if available, "December 1, 2022, to February 28, 2023", during the two winter seasons?
2. For each reported road accident or crash during the specified period, please provide the following information:
  - a. Date and time of the incident.
  - b. Location (including the road name and nearest junction or landmark).
  - c. A brief description of the incident (e.g., collision type, severity, weather conditions).
3. Please identify the top three roads or intersections with the highest number of reported accidents during the specified winter season. Include the total number of accidents and any patterns or factors contributing to these incidents, if available.
4. Please can you provide any additional data or insights regarding the common causes of road accidents during the winter season, such as icy road conditions, fog, snow, or other contributing factors?

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

I can confirm that when a member of the public contacts the police and it's deemed to be a police matter, an Incident will be recorded on the Incident Recording System. If it's then deemed to fall within the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime, a Crime will be recorded on the Crime Recording System.

Given that most Road Traffic Collisions (RTC) will not amount to a crime under the Home Office Counting rules, the majority of the information you seek will be contained within the Incident Recording System.

This system is largely free text and therefore it's reporting function is limited. There are opening and closing codes for each incident, which include several relating to RTCs. However, most of the other information contained within each record is free text, including the location.

As such, although it's possible to retrieve the number of incidents that had either an opening or closing code relating to an RTC, it's not possible to provide the other information requested within the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

The above search for the time period December 2021 to February 2022 resulted in 1682 records and 1955 records for the time period December 2022 to February 2023. These records would need to be manually reviewed to ascertain the rest of the information you have requested.

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.

Unfortunately, I'm unable to assist in suggesting ways of refining your request to come within the confines of Section 12 of the Act. Even reducing the timescale would not reduce the number of records enough that a manual review could be conducted within the timescale but still provide meaningful information.

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