



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_23_1044

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 20/11/2023

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.1044

On 25/10/2023 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 from Gloucestershire Constabulary about the use and deployment of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV).

Please may you provide me with answers to the following:

1. Do you use UAV's at crime scenes? If so what type of scenes, Arson, missing persons, etc. and how many times have they been used in the last two years?
2. Do you use your own UAV's or subcontract UAV services from an outside body/Police force? If so which company/body do you use and what type of UAV?
3. Have you ever used UAV's to help search for clandestine graves or missing persons?
4. How many staff do you have trained to deploy a UAV? What has been the cost of staff training?
5. Are your UAV operators police officers or staff?
6. If the answer is yes to any of the above what has been the approx. cost internally and externally?

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

Unfortunately, it's not possible to electronically search for the information you have requested.

It's not possible to retrieve the number of deployments of UAVs for the last 2 years within the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 off the Freedom of Information Act. It would also not be possible to retrieve the costs for the training relating to UAVs within the cost limits of Section 12 of the 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, it would be possible to retrieve information relating to questions 1-5 if you omit the cost and number of times the UAVs have been used parts of the questions. If this information would still be useful, please submit a new FOI request to foi@gloucestershire.police.uk

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