



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_23_1068

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 29/11/2023

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.1068

On 03/11/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I would like to know the number of so-called cannabis farms discovered in your force area since 01/01/13.

The data could be provided via spreadsheet and categorised by year of discovery. Also appreciated would be your definition of cannabis farm.

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

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

The Constabulary has no specific definition of cannabis farm and therefore no central record of such. In order to ascertain if any relevant information is held, a manual review of all 92/21 – Production of cannabis offences would need to be conducted to determine if any related to a 'cannabis farm'. Given the timescale requested, this would involve hundreds of crimes and would take 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, a free text search can be conducted of the MOs of crimes recorded. Therefore it would be possible to search for crimes recorded with the offence of 92/21 – Production of cannabis within the requested time period whereby a certain term was included in the MO. This would clearly be solely reliant on the relevant term being present in the MO.

If such a search would still be useful, please submit a new FOI request to foi@gloucestershire.police.uk confirming which terms you would like searched.

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