



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_2023.1104

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 05/12/2023

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.1104

On 13/11/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am investigating an apparent rise in drivers and passengers posting footage of themselves or others speeding or otherwise driving recklessly, on social media platforms like Snapchat, TikTok, Facebook & YouTube. Please answer the following questions:

- Does your police force actively target social media platforms to gather evidence of dangerous driving, with a view to bringing charges against dangerous drivers?
- Does your police force have a website whereby the public can upload video footage of dangerous driving, including from dashcams, helmet cams, mobile phones and social media content (eg via an 'Operation Snap' type scheme)?

Please provide the following data for EACH of the last five financial years (defined 6 April to 5 April, so from and including 2018/19 to 2022/23):

- How many driving offences were recorded by your police force in each of the last five financial years whereby the evidence used to charge offenders was gathered solely from video footage on social media or online posts (please include offences spotted by your officers seeing such posts on social media platforms and offences reported by the public supplying video footage to your police force voluntarily)?
- How many driving offences were recorded by your police force in each of the last five financial years whereby the evidence used to charge offenders was gathered solely from the public supplying video footage to your police force voluntarily?

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

With regards to identifying records where either social media footage or dashcam footage is used as evidence for charging, unfortunately, there is no central register for this

information and no way to retrieve the information by way of electronic searches. Whilst it may be recorded within the record that such evidence exists, the only way of trying to determine whether any information relevant to your request is held, and to retrieve that information, would be to manually review all individual charge records. This would involve the review of hundreds, if not thousands, of records and would therefore take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by the Freedom of Information 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.

By way of assistance and although excess cost removes the Force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, I have supplied the information relevant to your request which has already been retrieved. I trust this is helpful but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

With regards to Q1, the police routinely gather intelligence from the internet but not specifically dangerous driving, unless a current investigation requires it, where offences are identified including dangerous driving, then investigations could lead to formal charges.

Gloucestershire Constabulary have published details regarding Operation Snap on the external website. Further details can be found here:

[About | Operation Snap | Gloucestershire Constabulary](#)

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