



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_23_1106

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 11/12/2023

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.1106

On 14/11/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Can you provide me with the number of sextortion cases reported to Gloucestershire - broken down by calendar year for the past five years - so 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023.

Of those reports, if possible please could you provide me with the number which have led to further action - arrest, charge, conviction, ongoing, etc.

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.

The Constabulary records crimes as per the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crimes and 'Sextortion' is not a specific offence. As such, in a bid to ascertain if the Constabulary holds any relevant information, a search has been conducted of crimes recorded within the above timeframe with the offence of Blackmail. The Crime Recording System has a 'cyber' tag that has also been added to the search to try to only bring back those Blackmail crimes recorded which may have occurred online.

This search has resulted in several hundred crimes, which would need to be manually reviewed to ascertain if they related to 'Sextortion'. This would clearly take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of 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.

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 e.g. in 2022, there were 296 crimes that would need to be manually reviewed.

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