



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_2023.1107

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 2023.2023.1107

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 cases of someone impersonating a police officer reported to Gloucestershire Police - 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.

When an Individual contacts the police and it's deemed to be a police matter, an incident will be created on the Incident Recording System. If that incident is deemed to fall within the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime, a crime will be recorded on the Crime Recording System.

Please note that the Incident Recording System is largely a free text entry system and does not record information in as much detail as the Crime Recording System and therefore its reporting function is limited. There is no specific recording category for the impersonation of a police officer, and as such a manual review of all incidents and cross reference of records will be required in order to determine if relevant information is held. As the constabulary records approximately 500 incidents per day, a manual review of all incident records for a 5 year period would take considerably longer than the 18 hours prescribed by the Freedom of Information Act.

Please see below for suggestions on how you can 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.

Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act, provides the opportunity to assist the applicant with any suggestions or variation that may allow a search to be undertaken within the cost constraints of Section 12 of the Act.

I confirm that the Constabulary could provide the following:

A search of the Crime recording system and the Case recording system could be conducted in order to identify any confirmed offences that may be recorded, from which we would then be able to electronically identify the recorded outcome.

If this would be of use to you, you can submit a new request.

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