



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_23_1115

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 13/12/2023

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.1115

On 16/11/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I would like to make the following requests for information about all allegations made against the scouts between 2013 and 2023:

1. The nature of all allegations made against the scouts to the force.
2. How many of the allegations listed in request 1 have led to arrest and/or conviction.
3. The number of deaths (excluding natural causes) involving the scouts that the force is aware of.

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.

There is no tag/category regarding crimes relating to the Scouts.

Although the crime recording system has an occupation field, it's not possible to retrieve accurate statistics relating to crimes whereby the offender had a particular occupation. The occupation field is free text and non-mandatory and it's also overwritten each time it's updated. Therefore if a search was conducted today for crimes linked to a specific occupation for the last 10 years, it would only retrieve the number of crimes against those individuals whose occupation is currently the searched occupation.

As such, in order to ascertain if any relevant information is held, a manual review of all crimes for the time period requested would be required. This would clearly take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

In order to ascertain whether any deaths were involving the Scouts, a manual review of all incidents relating to deaths would need to be manually reviewed. As this would involve reviewing hundreds of records over the time period, this would also take longer than the 18 hours prescribed by 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, I can confirm that a free text search could be conducted of the MOs of crimes for specific terms. A manual review would still need to take place of the resultant crimes to ascertain if they are relevant to your request. If this would still be useful, please submit a new FOI request to foi@gloucestershire.police.uk confirming the terms you would like us to search.

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