



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_2023.1144

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 22/12/2023

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.1144

On 27/11/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. Does your police force have a Police Link Officer for Deaf People (PLOD) scheme?
 - 1a. If so, how many PLOD officers does your force have?
 - 1b. What British Sign Language (BSL) qualifications do those PLOD officers have?
2. How many of your officers have received Deaf Awareness training?
3. How many suspects in the last 12 months have disclosed that they are deaf or hard of hearing?
4. How many suspect interviews have required the use of a BSL-English Interpreter in the last 12 months?

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

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 a custody record that a detained person has disclosed that they are deaf or hard of hearing, this would be recorded within free text sections of the record, and is therefore not identifiable by way of electronic searches. The only way to determine if this information is held would be to manually review all custody records for the period specified. During the period of 12 months prior to the date of your request, over 8,700 custody records were created. A manual review of these records would 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.

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 would be able to provide a response to question 1 & 2 of the original request.

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