



Your reference: N/A

Our reference: FOI_2023.1151

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 2023.1151

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

Dear Information Governance Officer,

This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please note there are three parts to my request.

Q1. Between 1 January 2021 and 27 November 2023, has your force investigated a case of unexplained pregnancy loss?

Please provide a Yes/No answer

Q2. If the answer to Q1 is "yes", please provide the total number of times your force has investigated a case of unexplained pregnancy loss?

Q3. If the answer to Q1 is "yes", between 1 January 2021 and 27 November 2023, has your force requested a woman hand over data from a menstrual tracking app to aid your investigation?

Q4. If the answer to Q3 is 'yes', please will you provide the name of the menstrual tracking apps?

Q5. If the answer to Q1 is "yes", between 1 January 2021 and 27 November 2023, has your force requested a menstrual tracking app (such as Flo or FEMM) share a woman's data with you to aid your investigation?

Q6: If the answer to Q5 is "yes", please will you provide the name of the menstrual tracking apps?

Further information was received from yourself with clarification on 28/11/2023 with the following:

Thank you for your request for clarification.

I wanted to share with you this article which focuses on police investigations following unexplained pregnancy loss, which uses that term for when police have requested blood tests from women who are suspected of having an abortion. It uses the term "unexplained pregnancy loss" to define abortions which take place outside the exemptions of the 1967 Abortion Act.

If you could provide figures for "intent destruction of a viable unborn child" that would be helpful.

And responses relating to investigations into violations of Section 58 of the Offences Against the Persons Act (OAPA) 1861. The Act states anybody who provided or used a poison or instrument to end a pregnancy shall be guilty of a misdemeanour and, if convicted, could be imprisoned.

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

Police Forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data. It should be noted that for these reasons the figures given relate to information from the specific recording system of Gloucestershire Constabulary and should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you receive.

Please note that our systems are designed to record information for policing purposes and the investigation of crime and not to extract statistical information. Accordingly whilst we endeavour to extract relevant data within the time limits of the Act, any data supplied is subject to these limitations.

Following receipt of your request and receipt of your clarification, I can confirm that a search of the Crime Recording System has been conducted for the following offences from your clarification:

004/03 – Child Destruction

014/01 – Administering drugs or using instruments to procure abortion

014/02 – Procuring drugs etc. to cause abortion.

This search has been conducted for 01/01/2021 – 27/11/2023.

1. Yes
2. 2.
3. No
4. N/A
5. No
6. N/A

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