



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_2023.1183

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 10/01/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.1183

On 11/12/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am writing to you today under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, to request some information from your force. My university dissertation is about police dogs and how they are used in the police, so I was just after some specific information. Please may you provide me with the following information:

From 2011 - present:

1. The number of police dogs in service
2. What police dog breeds used
3. How many times the dog has had to use its bite to detain or capture a suspect
4. Any police dog injuries and deaths
5. Would you also be able to provide me with information about what dog breeds are used for different tasks:
 - a. Search and rescue
 - b. Detection
 - c. Arresting
 - d. General patrol

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

With regards to the number of Police Dog injuries, whilst there is a central records for this information, it is a system shared by 3 Police Forces. Unfortunately, the system is not able to electronically filter the records for those only relevant to Gloucestershire Constabulary. The only way of trying to determine whether any relevant information is held and to retrieve that information would be to manually review each record on the system. This

would involve the review of over 2,200 records and would therefore 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.

By way of assistance and although excess cost removes the Force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, I have supplied the information relevant to your request which has already been retrieved. I trust this is helpful but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

Q1.

Year	Total
2011	21
2012	22
2013	23
2014	30
2015	36
2016	34
2017	40
2018	33
2019	28
2020	24
2021	28
2022	26

2023	22
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Q2 and 5.

Gloucestershire Constabulary has a mix of breeds for General Purpose Policing dogs including German Shepherds, Belgium Malinois, Dutch Herder/German Shepherd cross.

General Purpose Policing includes the tasks of Search & Rescue, Arrest, General Patrol

Specialist dogs are a mix of Springer spaniels, Cocker Spaniel, Labradors. We have previously had a Staffie as a specialist dog, but is now retired.

Specialist dogs are used for detection.

Q3.

Records for this question only go back as far as 2014.

Year	Total
2014	1
2015	2
2016	2
2017	7
2018	3
2019	5
2020	12
2021	7
2022	7
2023	5

Q4.

I can confirm there have been no deaths of Police Dogs as a result of operational work or as a result of an injury.

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