



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_2023.1205

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 17/01/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.1205

On 18/12/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information relating to details held by your force concerning the Modern Slavery Act 2015:

1. Do the information systems used by your force have special tags or markers to indicate suspicions or indicators of modern slavery and/or human trafficking ?
2. Does your force have a crime registra spoc monitoring the quality or crime reports generated within the force relating to modern slavery and human trafficking ?
3. What is the average lifetime of a modern slavery and/or human trafficking investigation within your force ?
4. Between January 2023 and December 2023 how many modern slavery and/or human trafficking records are logged within your system (intel, public reporting, crime reports etc) of which how many have been allocated to an investigating officer and a case file generated ? and of those closed what are the 2 highest recorded closing codes ?
5. Of that number how many are live modern slavery investigations today (15th of December 2023) and of those how many victims does that relate to?

For the purpose of this request we are considering an investigation to be as defined by the college of policing as an investigation conducted by police officers/civilian investigators with a view to it being ascertained whether a person should be charged with an offence, or whether a person charged with an offence is awaiting trial.

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 there is a recording tag on the Incident Recording System for modern slavery, the tag is not used in a way that reliable searches can be conducted, meaning that a manual review of all incidents would be required to answer your enquiry in full. Given that the Constabulary records approximately 500 incidents per day, this would clearly take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of 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:

With regards to question 4, we are able to conduct a search of the Crime Recording System to identify the number of substantiated crimes recorded within the time period. This would consist of a search of the appropriate Home Office Offence codes, from which we would also be able to determine the recorded outcome, and identify the two most used.

If you wish to submit a request on this basis, please let us know.

Outside of the act, I can also provide the following information –

With regards to Q2, Gloucestershire Constabulary has a Force Crime and Incident Registrar whose role is to act as the final arbiter for crime recording decisions in line with the Home Office Counting Rules for recorded crime, and to oversee compliance with the crime recording process.

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