



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_2023.1229

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 29/01/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.1229

On 29/12/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. In the period from 1.1.23 to 30.11.23 how many times has your force carried out a targeted operation to see if drugs have been present at a venue?

By this I mean an operation to check if drug residues have been left behind at a building or facility which is not a private residence. Also, if for example you checked for residues at all the toilets at a football stadium on one particular day that would be one operation rather than counting the individual number of toilets in that stadium tested. However, if you tested the toilets at the venue on two different match days that would be two operations.

2. If so please state the (i) the venue where the tests were carried out, (ii) the type of facility within that venue that the tests were carried out and (iii) details of the types of drug that were detected/or were no drugs detected.

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

The information you have requested may be held by Gloucestershire Constabulary however we do not record such instances statistically and there is no central register for this information, and therefore no way to retrieve the information by way of electronic searches. To provide a definitive response, all officers would need to be canvassed to determine if they have been a part of such an "operation", followed by a search of departmental records to determine if related records are held. Even by narrowing this request down to the department most likely to hold any relevant information, we have estimated that would far exceed the permitted time constraints, therefore Section 12 of the Act is applicable. This section does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request

for information if the authority estimated that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit of 18 hours, equating to £450.00

You should consider this to be a refusal notice under Section 17 of the Act.

When applying Section 12 exemption our duty to assist under Section 16 of the Act would normally entail that we contact you to determine whether it is possible to refine the scope of your request to bring it within the cost limits. However, from the information we have outlined above I see no reasonable way in which we can do so.

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.

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