



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_24_006

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 30/01/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0006

On 03/01/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Please disclose how many incidents linked to the website OnlyFans were reported to the force in 2021, 2022 and 2023 (with an annual breakdown for each year).

For incidents reported in 2023 only, please disclose the full log of the incident as recorded by the force on your systems. Please redact any element of the log that would prohibit disclosure (i.e. identifiable)

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.

I can confirm that if a member of the public contacts the police and it's deemed to be a police matter, an incident will be recorded on the Incident Recording System. If it is then deemed to fall within the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crimes, a Crime will be recorded on the Crime Recorded System.

I can confirm that a search has been conducted of Incidents recorded from 01/01/2021 to 31/12/2023 whereby the term 'onlyfans' was present in the body of the record.

The results are as follows:

Year	No. of Incidents
2021	8
2022	4
2023	8
Total	20

With regard to the second part of your request, this data is exempt under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Although there is a public interest in understanding the potential issues linked to the website OnlyFans, this cannot override the individual's rights of confidentiality. It would not be a reasonable expectation of a member of the public reporting an issue to the police for their report to be made public via the Freedom of Information Act. If members of the public thought their reports would be made public, it would reduce the number of reports of crime.

Section 17 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.

With regard to the disclosure of specific incidents, the following exemption applies:

Section 40(2) Personal Information

Section 40(2) applies to third party personal data. This would not be released under the Freedom of Information Act unless there is a strong public interest. The disclosure of any information which could lead to the identification of an individual would breach the Data Protection Principles contained within the Data Protection Act 2018, namely the first principle which states that personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to individuals

This exemption is absolute and class based therefore I am not required to apply either the public interest test or harm test in disclosure.

In accordance with the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this part of your request.

Under Section 16, duty to assist, I can confirm that a free text search of the MOs of Crimes recorded could be carried out and for the MOs to be disclosed, subject to any potential redactions under Section 40 of the Act. If this would still be useful, please submit a new FOI request to foi@gloucestershire.police.uk

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