



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_24_0013

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 28/02/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0013

On 05/01/2024 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.

Please can you provide the following:

- The total number of uninsured vehicles seized by your constabulary annually from 1st January 2019 to 1st January 2024.
- A detailed breakdown of the seized vehicles by year, including, but not limited to:
 - Type of vehicle (e.g., cars, motorcycles, commercial vehicles).
 - Reasons for seizure (e.g., routine checks, accidents, tip-offs).
- A detailed breakdown of any enforcement measures taken against the owners or drivers of the seized uninsured vehicles, including, but not limited to:
 - Fines,
 - Penalties
 - or other legal actions.

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

Following receipt of your request, enquiries were made with the relevant area of the organisation. Unfortunately, some of the information you have requested cannot be retrieved within the time limits prescribed by the Freedom of Information Act. In order to determine if enforcement measures have been taken following the seizure of a vehicle, a manual review of all seizure records, and any associated linked records is required. A total of 5,297 seizure records have been identified for the time period of the request. Even narrowing down the date range to just 1 year will not reduce the number of records enough and 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 for this part of your request.

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:

A search for the number of prosecutions for offence code IN10 – using a vehicle uninsured against third party risks can be conducted, however this cannot be linked to the number of vehicle seizures. If this would be useful, a new request for this information can be submitted.

Further to the above and by way of assistance, 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.

Uninsured vehicle seizures for the period of 01/01/2019 to 31/12/2023:

Year	Total
2019	1067
2020	1261
2021	1020
2022	963
2023	986

I can also confirm that no information is held with regards to the type of vehicle seized and the reason for the seizure i.e. checks, accident, tip-off etc.

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