



Your reference: n/a
Our reference: FOI_24_0024
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 02/02/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0024

On 08/01/2024 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:

For the past year (Jan 1 2023-Dec 31 2023) how many FOI requests were responded to with a response (rather than just a confirmation of receipt) later than 20 working days, and what is the total number of working days late in total that it took for FOI requests to be responded to.

For requests that are still open and have not been responded to, please can you let me know how many there are from 2023 (Jan 1 2023-Dec 31 2023)?

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

Part of the information that you have requested is already reasonably accessible to you by other means and is therefore exempt by virtue of Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Gloucestershire Constabulary are required to make certain information available to the public as part of a publication scheme.

I can confirm that the Constabulary publishes compliance information in relation to FOI requests on the Constabulary website.

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.

The following the following exemptions apply:

Section 21 - Information reasonably accessible by other means
Section 22 – Information intended for future publication

Section 21 is an absolute and class-based exemption and therefore does not require a harm or public interest test.

Section 21 is applied as Gloucestershire Constabulary publishes FOI request statistics on the Constabulary's internet site, which includes the information you have requested above. The most recent statistics can be found using the below link:

[231110_foi_stats_october_2023.pdf \(gloucestershire.police.uk\)](https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/231110_foi_stats_october_2023.pdf)

Section 22 – is a qualified and class based exemption and therefore a public interest test is required.

Section 22 - Public Interest Test

This Public Interest Test is focused on whether the public interest favours the early release of the November and December 2023 information, ahead of the next scheduled publication, which is due in February 2024.

Reasons for disclosure:

Disclosure of this information would provide updated FOI statistics, demonstrating the Constabulary's transparency regarding the handling of FOI Requests.

The most recent statistical figures and information regarding this issue would enhance public knowledge of the subject, providing information that may better inform public debate and decisions of individuals.

Reasons against disclosure:

In order to provide a response to this request, the information would need to be retrieved and collated prior to the requirement to do so for the next scheduled publication. This would involve a disproportionate use of resources at this time.

The section 22 exemption was specifically laid down by Parliament to benefit those authorities who proactively publish information. To constantly produce new and up to date elements of the currently published information, in order to satisfy an additional need outside of the quarterly publication of the FOI Statistics, will render these exemptions less effective and remove the benefits of proactive publications.

Balance Test

It is deemed that the efficient and effective conduct of the force would be reduced in the disclosure of this information therefore the balance falls on the side of non-disclosure. The reason for disclosure will be satisfied in the near future through the publication of the statistics.

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