



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_24_0027

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 31/01/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0027

On 08/01/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. Has the official protocol you follow for stalking reports changed in the last 5 years?
2. How many stalking reports have you received in the last 2 years?
3. Of these stalking reports, how many reports have resulted in further action, like an arrest, conviction or restraining orders?
4. From reports made in the last 2 years, how many of the reported perpetrators were immediately investigated after the initial report?
5. How many Stalking Protection Orders (SPOs) have been sought by your force in the last 2 years?

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

Unfortunately it's not possible to electronically search for the information you have requested.

When a member of the public contacts the police and it's deemed to be a police matter, an Incident will be created on the Incident Recording System. If it's then deemed to fall within the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime, it will then be recorded as a Crime on the Crime Recording System.

Unfortunately the 2 systems do not correlate statistically. Therefore there is no way of linking the time/date that an Incident was recorded against the date the crime was recorded. As such, in order to ascertain the information for question 4, a manual review of all stalking incidents/crimes would be required. Given that this would involve manually review thousands of crimes, this would clearly take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of the Freedom of Information 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.

Providing Information Outside of the Act

By way of assistance and although excess cost removes the Force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, I can confirm the following information relevant to your request which has already been retrieved. We trust this is helpful but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

1. The Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Team have confirmed that the Stalking procedural guidance is kept under constant review and falls in line with the College of Policing Stalking APP. The procedural guide was updated in May 2023.
2. & 3. 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 a search has been conducted of Crimes recorded from 01/01/2022 to 31/12/2023 whereby the offence recorded was under the Home Office Category of Stalking and Harassment. The results along with the Police Outcomes recorded are as follows:

Police Outcomes	2022	2023	Total
Action undertaken by another body/agency	136	65	201
Charged/Summoned	301	250	551
Diversory	14	5	19
Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	2407	2146	4553
Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	5756	3793	9549
Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest (police decision)	63	2	65
Investigation complete - no suspect identified	1353	1016	2369
Investigation ongoing	81	904	985
Out of court (formal)	18	11	29
Out of court (informal)	170	282	452
Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	64	45	109
Total	10363	8519	18882

5. Please see the following table relating to Stalking Protection Orders:

Year	FULL Stalking Protection Order	Interim Stalking Protection Order
2022	0	2
2023	3	6

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