



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_24_0030

E-mail: FOI

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Direct dial: 01452 754304

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Date: 09/02/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0030

On 09/01/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I would be grateful if you are able to send me data on Drug Driving Arrests made by Gloucestershire Police over the course of the last 10 years up to and including 2023.

And equally the same for Drink Driving Arrests for the same period.

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.

The primary function of the Constabulary's Arrest Recording System is to assist the Constabulary in adhering to Code C of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. As such, its reporting function is limited. The system does not record detentions under specific offences under the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded crimes; instead it uses Reason for Arrest (RFA) Categories. Unfortunately there is no single RFA Category for drink driving and drug driving, the only relevant RFA combines the two; drink/drug driving. Although it's possible to follow an arrest through to a recorded crime and the police outcome per individual, it's not possible to retrieve electronic statistics. Therefore in order to ascertain the relevant arrest information for drink driving and drug driving separately, a manual review of 1185 records would be required just for the 2023 calendar year. 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 am able to 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.

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 for crimes recorded from 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2023 whereby any of the following offences was recorded:

- 803/09 - RT88339 - Drive whilst unfit through drink
- 803/11 - RT88347 - In charge of vehicle whilst unfit through drink
- 803/09 - RT88343 - Attempt to drive vehicle whilst unfit through drink
- 803/02 - RT88007 - Drive motor vehicle when alcohol level above limit
- 803/05 - RT88008 - In charge of motor vehicle - alcohol level above limit
- 803/02 - RT88326 - Attempt to drive motor vehicle - alcohol level above limit
- 803/02 - RT88007B - Aid / abet driving of a motor vehicle on a road / public place when alcohol level above the prescribed limit

- 004/06 - RT88554 - Cause death by driving without due care and attention / reasonable consideration while unfit through drink (no longer in force - end date 27/06/2022)
- 803/08 - RT88579 - Fail to give permission for a laboratory test on a blood specimen having caused a death (no longer in force - end date 27/06/2022)
- 803/10 - RT88340 - Drive a vehicle whilst unfit through drugs
- 803/12 - RT88348 - In charge of vehicle whilst unfit through drugs
- 803/10 - RT88344 - Attempt to drive vehicle whilst unfit through drugs
- 803/13 - RT88584 - Drive motor vehicle with a proportion of a specified controlled drug above the specified limit
- 803/15 - RT88585 - In charge of a motor vehicle with proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit
- 803/16 - RT88586 - Attempt to drive a motor vehicle with a proportion of a specified controlled drug above the specified limit
- 803/14 - RT88584B - Aid abet the driving of a motor vehicle with a proportion of a specified controlled drug above the specified limit
- 004/06 - RT88583 - Cause death by driving without due care / consideration while unfit through drugs (no longer in force - end date 27/06/2022)
- 004/13 - RT88527 - Cause death by driving without due care / consideration while over specified limit - specified controlled drug

The results, split by offences relating to drink driving and drug driving separately are as follows:

Offence	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Drink driving	470	501	532	478	506	524	453	482	561	598	5105
Drug driving	17	57	287	267	215	266	468	663	483	424	3147
Total	487	558	819	745	721	790	921	1145	1044	1022	8252

Please note that the above information is regarding the number of offences recorded, regardless of the police outcome. It does not relate to number of individuals arrested.

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