



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_24_0037

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 06/02/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0037

On 10/01/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Would it be possible to submit a request for information on offences under Section 16 – Duty to Assist, I can confirm that the Constabulary could search its Case database for the number of records where the offence has been recorded as “Owner of a dog worrying livestock” and/or “Person in charge of a dog worrying livestock”.

Perhaps:

1. Number of reports of these two offences between 1st July 2022 to 30th June 2023 broken down month by month.
2. If possible, information on involvement of sheep in the above recorded incidents.
3. If possible, information on if these incidents reported A) No Injury Caused B) Injury/Damage Caused C) Death
4. If possible, the outcome of these recorded incidents?

I’m trying to understand more about the number of sheep worrying attacks across the UK.

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.

A search of the Case Recording System has been carried out to identify records where the confirmed offences of "Owner of a dog worrying livestock" and/or "Person in charge of a dog worrying livestock" have been recorded between the dates of 01/07/2022 and 30/06/2023.

This has returned less than 5 records.

Due to the low number of records identified, no further details will be provided.

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 regards to the disclosure of information, including the offence name, 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.

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