



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_24_0043

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_0043

On 11/01/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. a) How many Post Office branch managers (sub-postmasters and sub-postmistresses) in Gloucestershire were charged with financial misconduct in relation to the Horizon scandal between 1999 and 2015?
b) Can you break down the nature of these charges?
2. a) Of those charged, how many Post Office branch managers were convicted in relation to financial misconduct?
b) What were the nature of these convictions?

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

Unfortunately, it's not possible to electronically retrieve the information you have requested.

Although the crime recording system can and does capture information surrounding the occupation of a victim and/or an offender, it's not possible to accurately report on this.

The occupation field within the system is free text and non-mandatory. As such, the field is not always completed. This field is held within the Person Record on the system and although this links to the Crime Record, it's only possible for the reporting function to retrieve the most recent occupation, which is likely to therefore be inaccurate. It's also possible for the victim's occupation to not be recorded at all, which obviously would not be retrieved from a search. A manual review of all records would then be required to determine if an occupation is recorded.

With this in mind, searches of the crime recording system were conducted to identify all records where the MO location code for Post Office has been recorded. A further, separate search was then conducted for all crimes where the terms “sub-post” “sub post” and “post office” are contained with the MO freetext.

A manual review of these records is still required to determine if any information that is relevant to your request is recorded. As there are over 2,500 records, this would far exceed the permitted time constraints, 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

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.

Unfortunately I am unable to provide any assistance under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act as I am unable to suggest any way to refine your request to come within the cost constraints of Section 12 of the Act.

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