



Your reference: N/A

Our reference: FOI_2024_0059

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 07/02/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_2024_0059

On 12/01/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act regarding the training, procedures, and guidance provided to officers in your constabulary concerning individuals using prescription medications, specifically medical cannabis users, who may be stopped while operating a vehicle.

Q1: Please could you provide copies of relevant training documents/excerpts that explain to officers how to manage situations where prescription medication users, generally or medical cannabis-specific, are stopped while operating a vehicle and would test positive, but their driving is not impaired?

Q2: Are alternative sobriety tests ever used, and under what circumstances? If yes, does this take into account the physical difficulties a prescription user may have? Please could you provide any supporting guidance or documentation about this given to front line officers.

Q3: Do your officers have any specific training around the use of prescription cannabis? Please could you provide a copy/excerpt of any relevant training or guidance.

Q4: Please could you provide excerpts of any guidance provided to front-line officers on procedures around prescription medication, particularly but not exclusively: Under what circumstances confiscation of prescription medication is reasonable Under what circumstances arrest of a prescription medication holder is reasonable What actions a police officer should take to verify if a prescription is genuine What actions a police officer should take when a member of the public raises legislation they are unfamiliar with?

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

Following receipt of your request, I can confirm that your request has been sent to the relevant departments who have confirmed the following:

1. There are no relevant documents which can be provided to explain how officers manage situations of this nature, the legal limits are set to consider any prescription drugs used at the levels advised.
2. Where there is evidence of being unfit to drive, the FIT test is used, however there is no documentation that can be provided in answer to this question.
3. From an initial training point of view no training is provided around the use of prescription cannabis. We are bound by learning outcome set out by the college of policing and therefore we teach what is included in the PECR Curriculum. We deliver training around the legislation in relation to drugs and drug driving.
4. No documentation can be provided. Certain situations will require different action and there is no documentation provided to officers.

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