



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_2024.0071
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 12/02/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2024.0071

On 15/01/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. For the months of November and December 2023 how many crimes were logged by your force where a machete was recorded as being an element in the offence? [Note: I would hope that this could be achieved by a computer search on the MO of crimes for the words "machete" or variants of the spelling to include "machette" and "machetes".
2. Please provide me with a table showing a breakdown of the crimes from Question 1 that are 'linked' to machete/s by its mention in the MO.
3. Taking the month of December 2023 please provide me with copies of the first 5 MOs that mention machetes. [Note: To avoid falling into an exemption I am content for names, ages, geography or any other personal detail to be redacted].

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.

Following receipt of your request, I can confirm that a search of the crime recording system has been conducted for all recorded crimes where a free text search of the MO has included the following keywords: 'Machete', 'Machette', and 'Machetes' between 01/11/2023 – 31/12/2023.

1. A monthly breakdown of recorded crimes where Machete is mentioned in the MO's

Month	Nov	Dec	Total
Total recorded Crimes	3	4	7

2. A monthly breakdown of offences

Offences	Nov	Dec	Total
Possession of Weapon	1	2	3
Public Order Offences	1	1	2
Stalking and Harassment	1	1	1
Total	3	4	7

3. Given the low number of the recorded crimes within the specific dates requested, there is a high possibility that individuals could be identified if the MOs was disclosed, as the content of the MOs where redacted would not provide meaningful information.

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 regard to the disclosure of the MO's, 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 with 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