



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_24_0079

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 14/02/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0079

On 18/01/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Please provide the role title, department title and total number (count) of all roles dedicated to digital forensic activities within your organisation?

2. How many digital devices were submitted to departments who's main function is digital forensic activity over the past 12 months? In your response, please provide the name of the department(s) alongside the total number.

3. Of the submitted devices listed in your above response:

- how many are submitted as mobile phone or tablet type devices?
- how many are submitted as computer or laptop type devices?
- how many are submitted as separate data storage devices, such as HDD, USB, memory card?

In your response please only include submitted devices and do not include associated sub-exhibits found within a submitted device during Forensic Science Activity.

4. How many digital device examinations are completed by departments who's main function is digital forensic activity each month for the past 12 months?

In your response please only include submitted devices and do not include associated sub-exhibits found within a submitted device during Forensic Science Activity

5. How many digital devices are currently awaiting examination in your main digital forensic unit(s)? In your response please provide the date that the data was generated.

6. How many digital devices were awaiting examination in your main digital forensic unit(s) 3 months prior to the date provided in question 5?

7. How many digital devices were awaiting examination in your main digital forensic unit(s) 6 months prior to the date provided in question 5?

8. Where present within your organisation, how many digital devices are submitted to 'frontline' digital forensic capability such as mobile 'kiosk' over the past 12 months?

9. Where present within your organisation, how many digital devices examinations are completed by frontline digital forensic capability such as mobile 'kiosk' over the past 12 months?

10. Over the past 12 months, how many digital devices have been sent to an external contractor for digital forensic activities by your organisation?

11. Do you have a contract in place with an external digital forensic provider for the provision of digital forensic services?

12. If you have answered 'yes' to the previous question, please provide the following details:

- a. The name of all external digital forensic providers you contract with.
- b. The start and end date of the contract.
- c. The contracting mechanisms you used.

13. Do you hold accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025, FSR Codes and ILAC G19 for digital forensic activities?

14. Are you intending to undertake any extensions to scope of you accreditation within the next 12 months? If so, please provide details of proposed scope?

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

With regards to the number of digital devices that were waiting for examination for more than 3 months or more than 6 months prior to the date, there is no central register for this information and no way to electronically retrieve this data. The only way to determine if any relevant information is held in answer to your request would be to manually review all records held by the department. We have estimated that this part of the request 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.

By way of assistance and although excess cost removes the Force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, I have supplied the information relevant to your request which has already been retrieved. I trust this is helpful but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

1. Digital Forensics Unit. There are 6 employees within the unit.
2. 2,150 devices have been submitted to the DFU within the last 12 months
3. 2,016 mobile telephones, 107 computers, 107 other
5. 215 as of 26/01/2024

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