



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_2024_0083
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 15/02/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2024_0083

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

I am writing to make an open government request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I would like answers to the questions below to be provided to me via email.

1. How many suspicious parcels were reported to your police force from January 1st 2023 – January 1st 2024? This might include:
 - Parcels with protruding wires, aluminium foil, or oil stains
 - Parcels emitting a peculiar odour
 - Greasy or oily patches on the package
 - Packages sealed in such a way so as to encourage opening the package at a particular end
 - Unusually printed address that might include spelling errors
 - Adverse physical reaction to the handling of the package – e.g., itching or irritation
 - No return address or return address that cannot be verified
 - Unusual postmark or no postmark
2. Of these, how many suspicious parcels were reported from a business address? How many were reported from a home address?
3. If possible, can you provide a month by month breakdown of the number of suspicious parcels reported (from any address).
4. In total, how many of the suspicious parcels reported to any address from January 1st 2023 – January 1st 2024 actually contained a hazardous, dangerous, or illegal item? This might include:
 - Substances and objects which may explode

- Gases which have been compressed, liquefied, or dissolved under pressure
- Flammable liquids and solids
- Biological substances
- Asbestos
- Controlled drugs and narcotics
- Corrosives
- Live creatures, insects, and invertebrates
- Waste, dirt, filth, or refuse
- Weapons and sharp objects
- Poisons, toxic liquids, solids, and gases
- Obscene publications or unlawful indecent images

If answering the above questions is not possible, could you please advise as to what relevant information would be attainable, or where the information might already exist in the public domain.

If this request is too wide or unclear, I would be grateful if you could contact me with advice as to what relevant information is attainable and what steps I need to take to receive it.

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

Unfortunately, it is not electronically possible to retrieve the information you have requested in relation to suspicious parcels. In order to retrieve and identify the requested information, a manual review of over 170 incidents would be required. There is also no facility within the Incident Recording System to easily identify if the “suspicious parcel” contains hazardous, dangerous or illegal items. The only way to do so is to review all incidents where the result code of Suspicious Package/Objects has been added to the record. This would exceed the 18 hours as prescribed by Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

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.

Section 16 – unable to assist

Unfortunately, I'm unable to assist in suggesting ways of refining your request to come within the confines of Section 12 of the Act. Reducing the timescale would not reduce the number of records enough that a manual review could be conducted within the timescale, nor would this provide meaningful information.

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