



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_24_0101

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 16/02/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0101

On 23/01/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Please can you provide any information regarding Unsolved Missing Persons cases under your constabulary. Your response will help Inform research being conducted for a dissertation by the University of Winchester, specifically investigating variability across police constabularies in the review of unsolved missing persons cases within the United Kingdom.

More specifically, I am interested in:

- 1) How many 'open' or 'inactive'/'cold' missing persons cases are currently under your constabulary? (Inactive meaning at least 1 year old).
- 2) What reasons are there as to why missing persons cases are still unsolved? i.e., funding, lack of resources, no new evidence, no body etc.
- 3) Are there any policies and procedures that your constabulary uses specifically for 'inactive' missing persons cases? If yes, what are they?
- 4) Which individuals are involved in the reviews of 'inactive' missing persons cases? i.e., Review Officer, Senior Investigating Officer, Crime Scene Manager, Forensic Scientist etc.
- 5) Does your constabulary work closely with other organisations when reviewing 'inactive' missing persons cases? If so, which organisations? And what do they do to help?
- 6) What charities does your constabulary have access to for inactive missing persons cases? If so, what charities? And what do these charities do to help aid a long-term missing person's case review?

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.

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2. Inactive cases remaining unsolved will do so for no other reason than all proportionate enquiries have been completed. All missing cases remain as Live until these enquiries have been completed and at this point, they are reclassified as Inactive and follow a separate review schedule as per the Missing Persons policy.
3. There are no separate or specific policies for Inactive cases. I have extracted the relevant section of the Missing Persons policy:
‘Inactive’ Cases
If the Duty Inspector considers that a missing person case does not warrant any further investigation the record can be made inactive and moved to the inactive list on COMPACT. Authorisation to do this can be obtained via the C/Insp Missing Lead or Missing /Mental Health Inspector in Community Harm Reduction and this will only be confirmed following a full review by a Detective Inspector or the Missing / Mental Health Inspector in Community Harm Reduction.
4. As detailed above
5. Gloucestershire Constabulary works closely with the UKMPU within the NCA who offer multiple types investigative support. They review the missing report in its entirety and conduct/suggest enquiries accordingly on a case by case basis.
6. Missing Peoples Charity. Please see their website for details of their service delivery [Home - Missing People](#)

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