



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_24_0112

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 21/02/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0112

On 25/01/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. How many reports have been made of violent offences towards hospital staff which were alleged to have taken place on hospital premises in the last five years? Please provide an answer for each year: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023.

b) If possible, please can you specify the type of violent offence for each incident reported?
2. How many people have been charged with violence towards hospital staff for the following years: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023?

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

Unfortunately, it's not possible to electronically search for the information you have requested.

I can confirm that a search has been conducted of crimes recorded from 01/01/2019 to 31/12/2023 whereby the offence recorded is that of 8/73 – Assault or assault by beating on an emergency worker. This has returned 1,128 records but unfortunately the search does not differentiate between emergency services. As such, in order to ascertain how many may have been involving hospital staff, a manual review of all of these records would need to be conducted. Such a search would clearly take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

We have also considered searching for specific occupations but unfortunately it's not possible to accurately retrieve crimes relating to victims with specific occupations. This is because although there is an occupation field on the system, it is non-mandatory, free-text

and is overwritten each time it is updated. Therefore when searching for crimes relating to an individual with a specific occupation, any results would not be accurate. So again, all the above records retrieved would need to be manually reviewed to ascertain the occupation of those involved as at the date of the offence recorded.

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.

Unfortunately, I'm unable to assist in suggesting ways of refining your request to come within the confines of Section 12 of the Act. Even reducing the timescale would not reduce the number of records enough that a manual review could be conducted within the timescale but still 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