



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_2024_0114
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_2024_0114

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

REQUEST 1:

What would you like to know?: Please may I request the following information:

1. How many offences of stalking were recorded by your police force between: 1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022? 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023?
2. Of the offences recorded as one of the 3 stalking offences between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23, how many outcome 1A outcomes are recorded where the alternative offence recorded is either s2 harassment or s4 harassment (putting people in fear of violence)?
3. Of the offences recorded as one of the 3 stalking offences between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23, how many outcome 1A outcomes are recorded where the alternative offence recorded is malicious communications?
4. Of the offences recorded as section 4a stalking offences between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23, how many outcome 1A outcomes are recorded where the alternative offence recorded is section 2a stalking?
5. Of the offences recorded as one of the 3 stalking offences between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23, how many outcome 15B outcomes are recorded?

REQUEST 2:

What would you like to know?: 6. How many dedicated specialist stalking officers (i.e. where the officer's time is wholly or solely reserved for the response, investigation, or management of stalking crimes) does your force currently have?

7. How many stalking Single Point of Contacts (SPOC) does your force have?

8. How many stalking SPO SPOCs does your force have?

REQUEST 3:

What would you like to know?: 9. In how many cases did your police force apply for one or more interim SPO between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23?

10. In how many cases did your police force apply for one or more full SPO between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23?

11. How many of those SPOs that your police force applied for between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23 ended up not being authorised by the superintendent and/or or not authorised by the police force legal services?

12. How many of those SPOs that your police force applied for between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23 ended up being refused at court?

13. How many of the SPOs you applied for between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23 had positive requirements?

14. How many breaches of SPO crimes were recorded between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23? How many resulted in a charge?

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

Unfortunately, it is not electronically possible to search for the information in relation of the offences recorded as one of the 3 stalking offences between 01/04/2022 – 31/03/2023, how many outcomes 1A outcomes are recorded where the alternative offence is recorded as either S2 Harassment or S4 Harassment or Malicious communications or Section 2a Stalking. In order to retrieve and identify whether the stalking offences were closed with a 1A outcome, a manual review of over 3370 stalking offences would need to be conducted. This manual review would exceed the 18 hours as prescribed by Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Please see below for suggestions on how you may be able to refine your request to come within the cost constraints of Section 12 of the 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.

Providing Information Outside of the Act

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

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 a search has been conducted for offences under the Home Office Category of Stalking from 01/04/2021 – 31/03/2023. The results are as follows:

1. A breakdown of stalking offences by financial year

Offence	2021	2022	2023	Total
Stalking	1119	1802	451	3372
Total	1119	1802	451	3372

Under Section 16 duty to assist, I can also confirm if you omit questions 2-5 from your request, we can conduct alternative searches, which may provide information requested.

If this would assist, please re-submit a new FOI Request to foi@gloucestershire.police.uk.

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