



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_24_0118

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 23/02/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0118

On 29/01/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I'm making an official Freedom of information request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the release of data pertaining to "big cat" sightings or attacks on livestock or wildlife in Gloucestershire in the past 2 calendar years.

Please can you include all of the following reports of "big cat", "wild cat", "panther", or "leopard" incidents or suspected incidents which have been reported to your organization between 01.01.2022 and 01.01.2024. Please include reports from Gloucestershire only.

For each sighting, please include:

The date of the incident

The location of the incident

Any action taken by the Police

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.

I can confirm that a search has been conducted of incidents recorded from 01/01/2022 to 31/12/2023 whereby the terms 'big cat', 'wild cat', 'panther' or 'leopard' were present. The resultant incidents have then been reviewed to ascertain if they relate to such sightings or attacks on livestock.

The results were 3 incidents; 1 mentioning the term 'big cat' and 2 mentioning the term 'panther'.

They were within May 2022, February 2023 and March 2023 in different areas; Tewkesbury Local Policing Area, Forest of Dean Local Policing Area and tagged as Traffic.

None of the incidents resulted in action being taken by police.

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