



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_24_0125

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_0125

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

1. Can I have the statistics on the number of reported cases involving dementia missing persons over the past year?
2. What is the average response time for the police when dealing with dementia missing persons?
3. What is the average response time for the police when dealing with non dementia missing persons?
4. What are the success rates in locating dementia missing persons?
5. Can I have the log for the common challenges or obstacles faced by police when searching for dementia missing persons?
6. What, if any, training is in place to prepare police staff to respond specifically to missing person cases where the missing person is suspected to have dementia?
7. What are the success rates for locating non-dementia mispers?

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

Whilst there is a separate recording system for missing person records, there are no identifying markers for Dementia. In order to answer your request, a manual review of all missing person records would be required. This would involve the review of thousands of records and would therefore take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by the Freedom of Information Act.

Please see below for suggestions on how you can 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.

Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act, provides the opportunity to assist the applicant with any suggestions or variation that may allow a search to be undertaken within the cost constraints of Section 12 of the Act.

Regarding question 1, I can offer the following alternative search;

A search of the incident recording system could be carried out to identify all records where the keyword of “Dementia” is contained within the freetext comments. This would then need to be followed by a manual review to determine the reason for the call for service, i.e. reporting a missing person, reporting a theft etc. Please be aware that depending on the number of records that require a manual review, the Section 12 refusal may still apply.

If you wish to resubmit your request with the amended question, please let us know.

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