



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_24_0151

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 04/03/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0151

On 06/02/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I would like to make a request under the freedom of information act for the following information:

For the years 2023,2022,2021,2020 and 2019 I would like to know how many packages posted by Royal Mail have the police seized for containing illegal drugs. If applicable please note which drugs were seized.

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

Unfortunately, there is no way of electronically searching for the information you have requested.

There is no specific Home Office Offence relating to drugs being sent via the postal system. As such, numerous drugs offences would need to be manually reviewed to ascertain if the drugs had been sent via Royal Mail.

Similarly, although the Constabulary has a drug seizure database, it's reporting function is limited and it's not possible to retrieve only those that may have been seized following the above scenario. It's also possible that the Constabulary recorded a relevant crime but the drugs were seized by another agency, such as Border Force. Any such instances would not be retrieved from such a search.

In order to accurately retrieve information pertinent to your request, hundreds if not thousands of records would need to be manually reviewed, which would take longer than the 18 hours 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.

Under Section 16, duty to assist, I can confirm that it's possible to search for specific drugs offences you are interested in, coupled with a free text search of MOs for the term 'royal mail'. If this would still be useful, please submit a new FOI request to foi@gloucestershire.police.uk confirming which offences you are interested in from the following link to the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crimes:

[Home Office Crime Recording Rules for frontline officers & staff - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/282241/2015-06-01-Home-Office-Crime-Recording-Rules-for-frontline-officers-and-staff.pdf)

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