



Your reference: N/A

Our reference: FOI_2024_0163

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 06/03/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_2024_0163

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

Thank you for acknowledging my freedom of information request. I have received the response

from the Constabulary and I am curious to know if narrowing down the search criteria would

enable me to access the information held by the Constabulary without Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act being invoked.

Should the Constabulary wish to grant approval for such a response, I hereby submit the following revised questions that were omitted from the initial freedom of information reply dated

Tuesday, February 06th 2024.

1) Monthly breakdown of individuals who were detained under Section 136 of the Mental Health

Act between January and December 2023 (Categorised on the following):

1.1.0) Age (0 - 10, 11 - 18, 19 - 21, 22, 24, 25 - 30, then in increments of 5 years thereafter)

1.1.1) Gender

Where possible (Please omit if no information is held or is considered too broad of a request)

1.2.0) Ethnicity

1.2.1) Percentage/Number of detainees searched by Police (ideally by Age and Gender)

1.2.2) Most common recorded reason for search (ideally by Age and Gender)

1.2.3) Most common recorded ground for search (ideally by Age and Gender)

1.3.0) Most common recorded reason for Section 136 detention (ideally by Age and Gender)

1.4.0) Most common recorded reason for Police conveyance to Maxwell Centre (ideally by Age

and Gender)

1.5.0) Most common recorded reason for Police conveyance to Emergency Department (ideally by Age and Gender)

2) Monthly breakdown of individuals who were detained under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act between January and December 2023; in which a Police Station/Police Custody Suite was used as the Place of Safety (Categorised on the following):

2.1.0) Age (0 - 10, 11 - 18, 19 - 21, 22, 24, 25 - 30, then in increments of 5 years thereafter)

2.1.1) Gender

Where possible (Please omit if no information is held or is considered too broad of a request)

2.2.0) Ethnicity

2.2.1) The average time spent under Section 136 detention (ideally by Age and Gender)

2.2.2) Most common recorded reason for the use of a Police Station/Police Custody Suite as a

Place of Safety (ideally by Age and Gender)

2.2.3) How many individuals had Section 136B of the Mental Health Act invoked while in a Police Station/Police Custody Suite (ideally by Age and Gender)

2.2.4) Most common recorded outcome for Section 136 detentions (ideally by Age and Gender)

Regarding question 5, I was already aware of the provided link [section-136-policy-revised-policy-final-version-sept-15-2020.pdf](https://gloucestershire.gov.uk/section-136-policy-revised-policy-final-version-sept-15-2020.pdf) (gloucestershire.gov.uk) –

In my initial request, I specifically asked for the policies and procedures implemented by this

Constabulary concerning individuals detained under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act. Although I appreciate the existence of the local multi-agency policy, I had hoped to receive specific policies and procedures that are solely implemented by this constabulary. This might have included links, PDF copies of policies and procedures, as well as copies of blank forms (for example the cited Mental Health Form on Officers electronic devices), rather than being provide direction to the readily available information accessible via gloucestershire.gov.uk. To that end, please can the Constabulary reconsider if there are any specific policies/procedures and/or documents (E.g decision making, log sheets, escalation requirements, Officer training etc - obviously I would expect blank copies) in relation to Section 136 individuals In respect of question 6 you have provided the following response:

“ 6. The location section of the incidents retrieved from the above search has been searched for “Maxwell Centre” and this has returned no incidents. Please note that this simply denotes that the exact term “Maxwell Centre” was not present in the location field and therefore this will not include any variations in spelling.”

I kindly request an additional search to be conducted, as my initial inquiry did not explicitly specify the search term as "Maxwell Centre" alone. Instead, it stated: "Number of requests for Police attendance between January - December 2023 to the Section 136 (Maxwell Centre) Suite". The inclusion of the name Maxwell Centre was intended to ensure that the requested information pertains solely to this Section 136 Suite. Therefore, I kindly ask you to conduct a further search based on the revised question provided below.

6) Monthly breakdown of requests for Police attendance to the Section 136 Suite in Gloucester.

Where possible (Please omit if no information is held or is considered too broad of a request)

6.1.0) Most common recorded reason for request

I believe the information provided above is comprehensible and will hopefully yield additional details. Consequently, I will now patiently await your decision regarding this subsequent communication.

Clarification was sent advising that there is no tag for Section 136 suite, and asking if you are able to confirm if a keyword search would assist with your search and if so could you provide what keywords you would like a search to be conducted for.

A response was received advising that you would like a search for requests for police attendance at the Section 136 Suite, keywords provided are: Mayhill Way Gloucester GL1 3NW, Section 136 Suite, Section 136 Centre, The Maxwell Suite, Maxwell Suite, The Maxwell Centre and Maxwell and to consider the address for Wotton Lawn Hospital.

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

As per the previous request Question 1 and 2 cannot be answered as Section 12 is engaged. I have reiterated the response below.

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

Although the Constabulary has a Mental Health Form available on Police Officer's electronic devices, the process of completing these forms has not been fully implemented. Therefore, in order to capture accurate information, all police officers would need to be canvassed. This would clearly take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Even reviewing the information retrievable from the forms that have been completed, not all of the information requested is present. Therefore, to answer all the questions you have posed in questions 1 and 2, along with the canvassing of officers above, 345 mental health forms and corresponding incident records would need to be manually reviewed. Again, this would take longer than the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of the Freedom of Information 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, I can confirm the following 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.

5. There is no policy created by Gloucestershire Constabulary as detailed in the provided any policy/guidance is contained within the shared service document.

6. 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 of the incident recording system for incidents recorded and attended between 01/01/2023 – 31/12/2024, whereby the following keywords were used in the location field: Wotton Lawn Hospital
Mayhill Way, Gloucester, GL1 3NW

"Section 136 Suite,"

"Section 136 Centre,"

"Maxwell Suite,"

"The Maxwell Centre,"

"The Maxwell Suite,"

"Maxwell."

The results are as follows:

The number of incidents recorded and attended

Month	Incidents	Attended
Jan	42	11
Feb	34	12
Mar	38	11
Apr	32	9

May	46	11
Jun	67	16
Jul	53	14
Aug	65	15
Sep	50	10
Oct	27	10
Nov	33	6
Dec	52	16

The most common reason for request and attendance is Concern for safety, there has been 186 incidents recorded and 55 incidents attended.

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