



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_24_0174

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_24_0174

On 09/02/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

How many threats to life against sitting members of parliament were under investigation by your force at any point in the 2023 calendar year?

Please provide the information in table format, broken down by the number of threats to life made against each MP (names can be anonymised, of course).

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

Unfortunately, it's not possible to electronically retrieve the information you have requested.

Although the crime recording system can and does capture information surrounding the occupation of a victim, it's not possible to accurately report on this.

The occupation field within the system is free text and non-mandatory. As such, the field is not always completed. This field is held within the Person Record on the system and although this links to the Crime Record, it's only possible for the reporting function to retrieve the most recent occupation, which is likely to therefore be inaccurate. For example, a person could come to police notice in 2017 with the occupation of Administrator and then again in 2023 and the occupation was recorded as Member of Parliament. The system would retrieve both crimes as occurring with the victim having an occupation of Member of Parliament, which would be incorrect. The opposite is also possible; a person could come to police notice in 2017 with an occupation of Member of Parliament but in 2023, it's recorded as Administrator. In this example, neither crime would be retrieved from the search for a victim with an occupation of Member of Parliament. It's

also possible for the victim's occupation to not be recorded at all, which obviously would not be retrieved from a search.

As such, in order to accurately provide any relevant information, a manual review of all relevant crimes would be required to ascertain if we hold any information relating to crimes where the victim was a Member of Parliament. As this would require a manual review of hundreds of records it would therefore take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by 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.

Under Section 16 of the Act, unfortunately I am unable to provide any advice for how you could refine your request to come within the cost constraints of Section 12.

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