



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_24_0186

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 08/03/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0186

On 12/02/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Amnesty International and the Omega Research Foundation are currently undertaking a research project exploring the nature, scope and regulation of transfers of law enforcement equipment, weaponry and associated training that could be used for torture and other ill-treatment. As part of this research we are examining potentially relevant activities of the UK police forces and policing organisations offering security and justice assistance to foreign entities. We are also examining the range of law enforcement equipment and weapons acquired by all UK police forces.

We would like to submit this information request as follows:

1. Training conducted by Gloucestershire Constabulary to law enforcement officials of third countries

We would be grateful if you could provide a list of all the places of detention, police forces, security forces and military forces from non-UK countries to which Gloucestershire Constabulary personnel have provided training, from 1st January 2019 till 31st December 2023.

Please provide details on the foreign entity listed to receive the training, the dates of the training conducted and details of the training provided. Please specify for any training involving the use of equipment, the type of law enforcement equipment and weapons (e.g. handcuffs, leg restraints, other restraints (please identify), Taser, chemical irritant sprays, batons, launchers firing single kinetic impact projectiles, launchers firing multiple kinetic impact projectiles etc.) that the foreign law enforcement officials were being trained in.

Please disaggregate this data according to training provided by calendar year.

Please also highlight whether such training has been conducted in the UK or in a third country.

Please provide all information in a machine readable format.

2. Acquisition of law enforcement equipment and weapons by Gloucestershire Constabulary

We would be grateful if you could provide details of the law enforcement equipment and weapons that has been acquired by Gloucestershire Constabulary from 1st January 2019 till 31st December 2023.

Please specify the type of law enforcement equipment and weapons acquired during this period (e.g. handcuffs, leg restraints, other restraints (please identify), Taser, chemical irritant sprays, batons, less lethal launchers, single kinetic impact projectiles, multiple kinetic impact projectiles etc.); the date or dates of the acquisition of each equipment/weapon type; the amount (i.e. number of items) and cost (in pounds sterling) of each equipment/weapon acquisition; the purposes for which each equipment/weapon type was acquired and the company/country from the equipment/weapon was acquired.

Please disaggregate this data according to training provided by calendar year.

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

Unfortunately there is no central register for this information and no way to retrieve the information by way of electronic searches. In order to identify if any relevant information in response to your request is held by Gloucestershire Constabulary, a manual review of all budgets and associated records, departmental records and various forms will need to be conducted. This 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.

By way of assistance and although excess cost removes the Force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, I have supplied the information relevant to your request which has already been retrieved. I trust this is helpful but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

With regards to Q1, I can confirm that Gloucestershire Constabulary holds no relevant information.

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