



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_24_0205

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 11/03/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0205

On 14/02/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I would like to request the number of offences that were categorised as a corrosive offence in the Gloucestershire area between 1st January 2023 and 31st December 2023 inclusive.

1. The number of offences that were recorded as physical corrosive substance/fluid attacks against the person.
2. The number of threats of corrosive substance/fluid attacks against the person.
3. The age and gender of victims of the said offences mentioned in 1 and 2.
4. The age and gender of suspects of the said offences mentioned in 1 and 2.
5. Outcomes of physical corrosive substance attacks against the person.
6. Outcomes of threats of corrosive substance attacks against the person.

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

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

There is no specific offence relating to threat of corrosive substance/fluid attacks against a person. Such an offence would be recorded as any of the following offences:

- 8/72 – Malicious Communications
- 125/9 – Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress
- 125/11 – Fear or provocation of violence

A search has been conducted for crimes recorded from 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2024 whereby any of the above offences were recorded. This has resulted in 6,485 crimes. In order to ascertain if any of these related to a threat of corrosive substance/fluid attack, a manual

review of all of these crimes would be required. This would clearly take far 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 a search can be conducted for crimes recorded with the offence of 5/7 - Causing explosions, sending explosive substance or throwing corrosive fluids with intent to do grievous bodily harm within the timescales prescribed by section 12. If this would still be useful, please submit a new FOI Request to foi@gloucestershire.police.uk

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