



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_24_0209

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 28/03/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0209

On 15/02/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I would like to request the number of sexual assaults and rapes taken place in public toilets within your jurisdiction in the past 10 years.

Specifically, I am interested in the following:

- How many sexual assaults and rapes against people aged over 18 have been reported which are alleged to have taken place at public toilets in your jurisdiction in the last 10 years?
- How many sexual assaults and rapes against people aged under 18 have been reported which are alleged to have taken place at public toilets in your jurisdiction in the last 10 years?
- How many cases had an outcome of charge/summons?
- If possible, please provide yearly data and comment on measures you are taking to address the issue.
- If 10 years of data is not available, please provide data from the earliest month you can trace to the most recent month.

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

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.

A search of Gloucestershire Constabulary's Crime Recording System has been conducted to identify all substantiated crimes recorded between 01/01/2014 and 29/02/2024 where the offence falls under the Home Office Offence Group of Sexual Offences. A filter was then added to the search result to retrieve all of those where the MO Location Code for Toilets was added to the record. This has returned a total of 45 records. Please see the table below for the breakdown of the age group of the victim.

Year	Age Group		Total
	Over 18	Under 18	
2014	3	0	3
2015	1	0	1
2016	3	4	7
2017	1	0	1
2018	2	2	4
2019	4	4	8
2020	1	4	5
2022	6	2	8
2023	3	4	7
2024	0	1	1
Total	24	21	45

I can also confirm that of the records identified above, 3 records have the outcome of Charge/Summons. Due to the low number of records, no further breakdown will be provided.

Section 17 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.

With regards to any further breakdown of information such as the year the outcomes were recorded, the following exemption applies:

Section 40(2) Personal Information

Section 40(2) applies to third party personal data. This would not be released under the Freedom of Information Act unless there is a strong public interest. The disclosure of any information which could lead to the identification of an individual would breach the Data Protection Principles contained within the Data Protection Act 2018, namely the first principle which states that personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to individuals.

This exemption is absolute and class based therefore I am not required to apply either the public interest test or harm test in disclosure.

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