



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_24_0226

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 18/03/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0226

On 20/02/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information:

1. Please provide the number of children who have been recorded as trafficked to the UK by your police force.
2. Please provide a breakdown of where the children were trafficked from, eg. Romania, Sudan.
3. Please provide an age breakdown of the children rescued from trafficking. Please do this by each year eg. 11, 12, 13
4. Please provide details as to what the children were trafficked to the UK for, eg. Slave Labour, Sexual abuse etc.
5. Please provide data on how many of these children have been returned to their home country and how many have been granted residency in the United Kingdom.

Please can I have the information for the calender years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023.

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 search for the information you have requested.

The Constabulary's crime and intelligence systems do not have a tag/category of records relating specifically to individuals that have been trafficked into the UK. To ascertain if any relevant information is held would involve manually reviewing hundreds if not thousands of

intelligence/crime records over the 5 year period requested. 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 the Constabulary records crimes as per the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crimes and it may be possible to search for information that may be held solely related to crimes recorded, by searching for specific offences whereby the victim is under 18. Please bear in mind that this would still require a manual review and therefore, could still take longer than the time allowed.

If you would like us to search for specific offences, please submit a new FOI Request to foi@gloucestershire.police.uk confirming which specific offences you are interested in from the following link to the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crimes:

[Home Office Crime Recording Rules for frontline officers & staff - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/281211/2015-06-16_Home_Office_Crime_Recording_Rules_for_frontline_officers_and_staff.pdf)

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