



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_24_0245

E-mail: FOI

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Direct dial: 01452 754304

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Date: 20/09/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0245

On 23/02/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1a. How many police officers are in your force?

1b. How many of these officers are dedicated to dealing with domestic abuse / are domestic abuse specialists? What is the name of the role/roles if there is one?

i. (N.B., police officers dedicated to dealing with domestic abuse will be called domestic abuse specialists in the following questions - please still provide answers if they have a different official title)

1c. What is the gender makeup of your domestic abuse specialists, if you have them?

1d. Do you have a specialist domestic abuse team in the force? If so, what is the name of the team? And who do they report to?

1e. If you have domestic abuse specialists, how does someone become a domestic abuse specialist in your force? I.e. do they put themselves forward, or are they selected by an individual from the force. Who makes the decision for this promotion?

2a. Please describe in detail how your force handles domestic abuse cases from the initial 999 call to the case being passed on to the CPS.

What are the steps involved?

2b. What is the average time for a victim to have their case passed on to the CPS?

For questions 1a, 1b and 1c, please provide data for each quarter of the last 5 years, if you have this on record. If you do not, please give data for as many of the five years as you have.

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

1a. Gloucestershire Police currently employs 1288 police officers

1b. The Constabulary does have a Domestic Abuse Safeguarding Team (DAST) which are active in the prevention and intervention aspects of domestic abuse.

Investigations are conducted by the most suitable department at the time, and in relation to the severity, which range from prisoner handling teams, to CID investigators.

We do have 174 Domestic abuse champions in force (All are DA matters trained and additional training is being rolled out to them at present)

A further 691 officers and staff have received DA Matters training from Oct 23-March 24. Plans are now in place to train all remaining officers and staff with our local trainers.

1c. The DAST team currently consists of two males and five females.

Please see the below figures for question 1a, b and c for the last 5 years.

Date	Total officers	DAST Team	DAST - Female	DAST - Male
01/01/2020	1181	NA	NA	NA
01/01/2021	1266	1	1	0
01/01/2022	1238	2	1	1
01/01/2023	1294	5	4	1
01/01/2024	1303	7	5	2

1d. The specialist team at the moment are DAST their role is initial intervention and prevention, however there is a proposal to establish a dedicated unit.

1e. This is a volunteer position in addition to their day job and they must attend training available. This isn't considered a promotion but an add on to an existing role.

2 and 2a – exempt information please see below.

2b. No information held.

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.

The information in response to questions 2 and 2a is exempt by virtue of the following exemption;

Section 31(1) – Law Enforcement

Public Interest Test

Overall Harm

The prevention and detection of crime is the foundation upon which policing is built. The Police Service has a clear responsibility to prevent and detect crime and disorder as well as maintaining public safety. Disclosures under the Freedom of Information Act are disclosures to the world, not just to the individual making the request.

The disclosure of information which is likely to undermine the Police service's ability to serve the public, can only be considered as being harmful to the public.

Factors favouring disclosure for S31

Providing the information would enable the public to see where public funds are being spent. Better public awareness may reduce crime or lead to more information from the public.

Factors against disclosure for S31

Providing the information could compromise law enforcement tactics and hinder the prevention and detection of crime. More crime would be committed and individuals placed at risk, which would impact on Police resources.

Balance test

Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing operations and providing assurance that the Police Service is appropriately and effectively investigating these types of crimes, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding the integrity of police investigations and operations in this area.

Disclosure will provide a greater openness and transparency to the communities we serve regarding this specific offence. As much as there is public interest in knowing that policing activity is appropriate and balanced, if specific details as to how these offences are investigated are disclosed measures could be taken by those with malintent to circumvent police processes which would be likely to prejudice the prevention and detection of crime, the apprehension or prosecution of offenders and the administration of justice.

It is our opinion therefore that for these issues the balancing test for providing information relevant to your request is not made out.

In accordance with the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for your request.

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