



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_24_0262

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Date: 26/03/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0262

On 28/02/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I seek the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The questions refer to the Stalking Protection Act 2019.

Please can you answer the following questions per calendar year starting from 01/01/2019:

1. How many Stalking Prevention Orders were issued?
 - a. I would appreciate if per year, you could group the SPOs issued by the age groups <18, 18-64, and >64.
 - i. If this is not possible, please provide the data in whichever age categories are available.
2. How many arrests were made under suspicion of stalking?
3. How many breaches of Stalking Prevention Orders were recorded?
4. How many reports of stalking were recorded?

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.

1. The information available relating to Stalking Protection Orders (SPO) runs from 2020 only. Please see the table below:

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023
Full SPO	1	0	0	1
Interim SPO	3	1	2	4

All of the individuals regarding the above figures fell into the age bracket of between 18 and 64.

2. The primary function of the Constabulary's Arrest Recording System is to assist the Constabulary in adhering to Code C of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. As such, its reporting function is limited. The system does not record detentions under specific offences under the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded crimes; instead it uses Reason for Arrest (RFA) Categories. The only potentially relevant RFA category to your request is that of 'Harassment Section 4A Stalking and fear of violence'. The numbers of detentions with this RFA category are as follows:

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
No. of Detentions	0	0	88	154	219

Please note that although it's possible to follow an arrest through to a recorded crime and the police outcome per individual, it's not possible to retrieve correlated statistics between the arrest recording system and crime recording system.

3. A search has been conducted of crimes recorded from 01/01/2019 to 31/12/2023 whereby the offence of 8/74 - Breach of Stalking Order/Interim Stalking Order was recorded. The results are as follows.

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
No. of Crimes	0	0	1	1	0	2

4. A search has been conducted of crimes recorded from 01/01/2019 to 31/12/2023 whereby the offence recorded was any of the following offences under the Home Office Offence Category of 8Q Stalking:

8/65 – Stalking involving fear of violence

8/66 – Stalking involving serious alarm/distress

195/12 – Pursue a course of conduct in breach of S1(1) which amounts to stalking

The results are as follows:

Offence	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
8/65 - Stalking involving fear of Violence	84	56	315	415	616	1486

8/66 - Stalking involving serious alarm/distress	144	292	663	1058	1259	3416
195/12 - Stalking	87	110	389	328	223	1137
Total	315	458	1367	1801	2098	6039

Please note that Police Forces are required to record crimes as per the Home Office Crime Recording Rules. Further information can be found via the following link:

[Home Office Crime Recording Rules for frontline officers & staff - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/home-office-crime-recording-rules-for-frontline-officers-and-staff)

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