



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_24_0279
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 02/04/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2024.0279

On 04/03/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Please provide me with the following information under the Freedom of Information Act.

1. Based on your latest available data, how many acid/corrosive substance attacks have been recorded by your police force over the past 10 years? Can you break the victims down by age and gender if possible.
 - a. Provide all recorded outcomes for these crimes, or whichever outcomes you select.
2. How many attempted or threatened acid/corrosive substance attacks have there been over the past five years?
 - a. Provide all recorded outcomes for these crimes, or whichever outcomes you select.

For both of the above questions, if possible, can you say what substance was used/threatened to be used, e.g. household bleach.

If possible, please provide all requested data broken down by year by calendar year. Spreadsheet format preferred if possible.

If it is not possible to provide a breakdown by calendar year, please provide a combined total for as many years as you have available

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 manual review of crime recorded for the above offences between 01/01/2014 – 04/03/2024, in order to ascertain if any these related to a threat of corrosive substance/fluid attack. This would require a manual review of thousands of crimes. 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 if you resubmit your request omitting the entirety of 2, we may be able to provide relevant information.

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