



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_24_0370

E-mail: FOI

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Direct dial: 01452 754304

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Date: 01/05/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0370

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

1. The total number of arrests for possession, supply, production, and importation of cocaine within the area your police force covers from the years 2013 - 2023.
2. A breakdown of the total number of arrests for possession, supply, production, and importation of cocaine per year.
3. The total number of charges for possession, supply, production, and importation of cocaine within the area your police force covers from the years 2013 - 2023.
4. A breakdown of the total number of charges for possession, supply, production, and importation of cocaine per year.
5. The total number of convictions for possession, supply, production, and importation of cocaine within the area your police force covers from the years 2013 - 2023.
6. A breakdown of the total number of convictions for possession, supply, production, and importation of cocaine per year.

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

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. Unfortunately there is no single RFA Category for the offence(s) you have stated above. 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 electronic statistics. I can confirm a search has been completed for the year 2023 for the 4 following RFA offences:

33	Drugs Import / Export	Drugs
34	Drugs Manufacture Class A	Drugs
35	Drugs Possession Class A	Drugs
36	Drugs Supply Class A	Drugs

This has resulted in 383 records, to obtain these records for the 11 years you have requested would result in thousands of records. In order to ascertain if any relevant arrest information is recorded specifically relating to cocaine, a manual review of all of these records would be required. 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, a search can be conducted of crimes recorded however, you will need to confirm which offences you are interested in from the Home Office Crime Recording Rules please see the below 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)

Please note that a lot of these offences are for Class A and would still require a manual review which could still attract the exemption at Section 12 of the Act however, you may be interested in the following offences specific to cocaine:

092/10 Drug Offences Trafficking of drugs 92A Trafficking in controlled drugs
Production or being concerned in production of a controlled drug - Cocaine

092/30 - Drug Offences - Trafficking of drugs - 92A Trafficking in controlled drugs
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug - Cocaine

092/50 - Drug Offences - Possession of drugs - 92D Possession of controlled drugs
Having possession of a controlled drug - Cocaine

092/70 - Drug Offences - Trafficking of drugs - 92A Trafficking in controlled drugs
Possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply - Cocaine

093/10 - Drug Offences - Possession of drugs - 92C Other drug offences - Permitting
premises to be used for unlawful purposes - Cocaine

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