



Your reference: N/A

Our reference: FOI\_24\_0371

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 24/04/2024

Dear

**Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI\_24\_0371**

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please may I request the following:

1. The total number of arrests under the Vagrancy Act 1824 within the area your police force covers from 1 April 2023 to 29 February 2024.
2. A breakdown of the total number of arrests under the Vagrancy Act 1824 per month.
3. The total number of charges under the Vagrancy Act 1824 within the area your police force covers from 1 April 2023 to 29 February 2024.
4. A breakdown of the total number of charges under the Vagrancy Act 1824 per month.
5. The total number of convictions under the Vagrancy Act 1824 within the area your police force covers from 1 April 2023 to 29 February 2024.
6. A breakdown of the total number of convictions under the Vagrancy Act 1824 per month.

If you require any further information from me, please let me know.

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.

Following receipt of your request, I can confirm a search of the Arrest Recording System has been conducted for authorised detentions from 01/04/2023 to 29/02/2024, a filter has been applied to identify results where the following offences under the Vagrancy Act 1824 have been linked to a custody record:

Begging and Wandering abroad

Begging and Wandering abroad – second/subsequent occasion

Begging in a public place

Begging in a public place – second or subsequent occasion

Gather / Collect alms / Charitable donations by false pretence / fraud

Lodging in a barn / outhouse / unoccupied building / open air

Persistently bed in a public place (second or subsequent offence)

Vagrant – being found in or upon enclosed premises

A filter has then been applied for the offence outcome was 'Charge' or 'Postal Charge' this has returned a nil (0) result.

As way of assistance, please note that the Constabulary only holds data in relation to the number of individuals charged/summoned for a particular offence. The ultimate outcome of these offences depends on what happens at court i.e. whether the offender is found guilty (convicted) or not. This information comes from the court results which do not come within our systems. Hence we record the detection disposals for each case but do not have the ultimate conviction data.

Therefore any information relating to the outcome of a case, the length of sentence or whether any appeal was made is not held by the constabulary, but by the HM Courts Service. Please find a link below to their website:

[www.justice.gov.uk/](http://www.justice.gov.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](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)

Post –

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer  
Gloucestershire Constabulary