



Your reference: n/a
Our reference: FOI_24_0378
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As Above
Date: 01/05/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 24_0378

On 05/04/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Basically, as I have made FOIs to the Home Office, DWP, Justice System, Police, I get replies that appear to be pedantic and to avoid answering (although some forces have answered with no problem), I was saying as you know where all asylum/refugee hotels are, your force is aware of offences committed there, this is what I am asking in plain English

I am writing to you to make an open government request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

To avoid any confusion just let me know there is no need to use the usual standard cut and paste reply saying your search system use a 3-word search that is claimed it is unable to search for words like asylum seekers or refugees and a manual search would be 2.5 working days, costing £450, which exceeds your cost limit.

So, I will tell you how to avoid this.

As you are made fully aware of every asylum/refugee hotel within your forces area, all that is needed is to enter the hotels details, this will give you the number of times your force has attended them and for what offences.

As these hotels are used solely for asylum seekers/refugees this will give you the number of offences committed by asylum seekers/refugees.

You also have a legal requirement to adhere to the equalities act 2000, discrimination laws, ECHR laws, and the records of offences committed by British citizens and offences committed asylum seekers/refugees will be recorded/held to the same accessible standard.

Please send me the following information

1/ what is the number of offences committed by asylum seekers/refugees in the last 12 months from today's date 3rd April 2024.

2/ what is the breakdown of these offences committed by asylum seekers/refugees by the grouping of type of offence over this 12 month period from today's date 3rd April 2024. You will find other forces hold this information for public access.

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

There is no central register for the locations of hotels within our force area, regardless of whether they are used for housing asylum seekers/refugees or not.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to electronically identify the information you have requested. In order to identify and retrieve the requested information a manual review of all crimes recorded would be required to determine if the individual is an asylum seeker/refugee. This manual review would far exceed the 18 hours as prescribed by Section 12 of the Freedom of Information 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.

Unfortunately, I'm unable to assist in suggesting ways of refining your request to come within the confines of Section 12 of the Act. Even reducing the timescale would not reduce the number of records enough that a manual review could be conducted within the timescale but still provide meaningful information.

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