



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_24_0410

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 02.05.2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2024_0410

On 12/04/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1) How many people were arrested on suspicion of car cloning related offences broken down for the following years:

- 2019
- 2020
- 2021
- 2022
- 2023

2) How many cases of car cloning were reported to the force broken down for the the following years

- 2019
- 2020
- 2021
- 2022
- 2023

3) How many people were charged with car cloning related offences broken down for the following years

- 2019
- 2020
- 2021
- 2022
- 2023

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

The Constabulary records arrests under specific reason for arrest codes and can only search against the specific codes. There is no code for “car cloning” and any arrest may fall within several categories. The only way of trying to determine whether any relevant information is held and to retrieve that information would be to manually review each arrest in all possible arrest codes. This would involve the review of hundreds, if not thousands, of records and would therefore take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by 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.

Section 16 – unable to assist

Unfortunately, I’m unable to assist in suggesting ways of refining your request to come within the confines of Section 12 of the Act, due to their being no specific offence for “number plate cloning” and therefore information is not retrievable by way of electronic searches.

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