



Your reference: N/A

Our reference: FOI_24_0439

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 03/06/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0436

On 18/04/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information.

1. The number of incidences of online harassment reported in the 2023, 2022, and 2021 calendar years.
2. The number of incidences of cyberbullying reported in the 2023, 2022, and 2021 calendar years.

Clarification was sent on 23/04/2024 advising the following:

When an individual contacts the police and it's deemed to be a police matter, an incident will be created on the Incident Recording System. Please note that the word "incident" in Gloucestershire Constabulary's terminology refers to a type of record, not the event as a whole. If an offence is being reported (rather than a missing person for example) the "incident" will be assessed to determine if the offence falls within the Home Office Crime Recording Rules. If that incident is deemed to fall within the counting rules, a "crime" will be recorded on the Crime Recording System.

Please can you confirm if you would like a search of the Incident Recording System or a search of the Crime Recording System to assist with your request?

A response to the clarification was received on 10/05/2024 confirming the following:

I can confirm that I am requesting a search of the Crime Recording System to assist with my request.

If there is no crime code for cyberbullying, can I please have information on Malicious Communications crimes with a cyber flag for the calendar years 2021, 2022, and 2023 instead

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

For ease, I have numbered your request.

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, initial searches were conducted of the Crime Recording System substantiated crimes recorded between 01/01/2021 – 31/12/2023 for all offences under the Home Office Offence Categories of:

8L – Harassment

9A – Public Fear Alarm or Distress

8R – Malicious Communications

A filter has then been applied to identify records where the Cybercrime tag has been added.

The results are as follows:

1. An annual breakdown for Harassment and Public Fear, Alarm and Distress crimes where a Cybercrime tag has been applied

Year	Offence Category	Total
2021	Harassment	598
2021	Public Fear, Alarm or Distress	7
2022	Harassment	850
2022	Public Fear, Alarm or Distress	16
2023	Harassment	698
2023	Public Fear, Alarm or Distress	11
Total		2180

2. An annual breakdown for Malicious Communications crimes where a Cybercrime tag has been applied

Year	Offence Category	Total
2021	Malicious Communications	1209
2022	Malicious Communications	1981
2023	Malicious Communications	962
Total		4152

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