



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_24_0441

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 17/05/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0441

On 19/04/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I would like to make a freedom of information request regarding the number of children who have:

1. Been reported missing from asylum hotels in your jurisdiction
2. Been found in your jurisdiction

during the following periods:

- a) January 2021 – December 2021
- b) January 2022 – December 2022
- c) January 2023 – December 2023
- d) January 2024 – the most recent data available

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

Unfortunately, it's not possible to electronically search for the information you have requested.

There is no tag/flag on the Constabulary's Missing Person's Database specifically relating to children reported missing from asylum hotels. As such, in order to ascertain whether any relevant information is held, a manual review of all missing person episodes would be required for the time period specified. Given that the Constabulary records hundreds of children reported missing each year, this would clearly take far longer than the 18 hours 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.

Providing Information Outside of the Act

By way of assistance and although excess cost removes the Force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, I can confirm the following information relevant to your request which has already been retrieved. We trust this is helpful but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

The Missing Person's Database has a UASC flag which relates to unaccompanied asylum seeking children. No children with the UASC flag have been logged on the system, missing specifically from asylum hotels between 01/01/2021 to 24/04/2024.

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