



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_24_0443

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 19/06/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0443

On 22/04/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am writing to submit a Freedom of Information (FOI) request regarding the use of non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) within your force during the financial years 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24

I am seeking the following information pertaining to your force for the specified period:

1 - The total amount of money spent on NDAs by your force from in the specified period.

2 - The number of individuals who signed NDAs with your force during the specified period, categorised by:

- a. Police officers
- b. Civilian staff members
- c. Members of the public

Please also break this down by male and female, if possible.

3 - The largest amount of money paid to someone part of a single NDA agreement during the specified period.

4 - If not over the cost limit, a breakdown of the reasons for which NDAs were signed, categorised by:

- a. Matters relating to employment
- b. Complaints against the police force
- c. Other reasons (please specify)

5 - Any legal fees associated with these NDAs, if any.

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

There is no central register held where information can easily be retrieved in relation to NDAs. A manual search of all departmental records would have to be carried out, which would exceed the limit of 18 hours to retrieve, analyse and prepare for release.

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 am unable to provide any assistance under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act as I am unable to suggest any way to refine your request to come within the cost constraints of Section 12 of the Act.

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