



Your reference: n/a  
Our reference: FOI\_24\_0491  
E-mail: FOI  
@gloucestershire.police.uk  
Direct dial: 01452 754304  
Postal Address: As above  
Date: 24/06/2024

Dear

**Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI\_24\_0491**

On 02/05/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Please provide me with answers to the following query.

1 (a) For 12 months to the end of April 2024, please outline your force's average response time for a firearms unit / armed response unit, where an emergency call demands an armed police response.

- Please break this data / timings down by each post code area your force serves, eg. SW1, L27, EH11 ...

(b) Additionally, please provide this information for 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23.

(c) What are your force's target times for armed police responses to these post code locations?

2 (a) In the year to April 2024, how many incidents required an armed police response from your force?

(b) Additionally, please provide this information for 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23

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

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.

Firearms officers can be routinely assigned to incidents that do not require an armed response, therefore in order to obtain the information for questions 1(a) and 1(b) this would involve manually reviewing all emergency calls to ascertain whether the incident required an armed response. This would involve reviewing thousands of records for the requested time frame and would therefore take 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.

By way of assistance and although excess cost removes the Force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, we have supplied the 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.

1(c) – No information held

2 (a) and (b) –

I can confirm that the information is already in the public domain and can be accessed at the following website:

[Police use of firearms statistics - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-use-of-firearms-statistics)

The information is published by financial year however, current published data only covers the period up to the end of March 2023, not 2024. This information is routinely updated by the Government and will be updated in due course.

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](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)

Post –

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer  
Gloucestershire Constabulary