



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_24_0506

E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 05/06/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0506

On 09/05/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. How many offensive weapons were found in educational establishments in the following calendar years: 2018, 2019, 2022, 2023

For each recorded find, please include:

- The type of offensive weapon
- The type of establishment (e.g primary school, secondary school, college)
- The age and sex of the suspect (if known and possible)
- The outcome (e.g whether there was an arrest)

2. How many crimes were recorded in educational establishments in the following calendar years: 2018, 2019, 2022, 2023

For each recorded incident please include:

- The type of establishment (e.g primary school, secondary school, college)
- The crime type
- The age and sex of the suspect (if known and possible)

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

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

Although the Constabulary has a property recording system that can readily log a property item through the process of being seized and any subsequent action, it's not possible to

electronically obtain statistics from the system. Therefore in order to ascertain if any weapons had been seized from educational establishments would involve manually reviewing hundreds of entries. This would clearly take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of 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.

Under Section 16, duty to assist, I can confirm that a search can be conducted of crimes recorded relating to possession of weapons, whereby an MO Code of 'school', 'educational' or 'college/university' had been added to the record. This will not necessarily denote that a weapon was found/seized but if the resultant number of crimes is not significant, a manual review of these crimes may be possible, to ascertain this information.

If this would be useful, please submit a new FOI request to foi@gloucestershire.police.uk confirming which specific offences you are interested in from the [Home Office Crime Recording Rules](#).

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