



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_24_0602
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 26/07/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0602

On 19/06/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. Between the dates September 2019 - May 2024, have you recovered any leather exhibits from crime scenes or the person?
2. If yes to question 1, please provide a breakdown of types of leather exhibits recovered and number per year (clothing - jacket for example; footwear; furniture; weapon sheath - knife, gun, other; animal lead; wallet; belt; handbag).
3. If the leather exhibits were submitted to a Chemical Development (Fingermark Enhancement) Laboratory, please disclose what fingermark development methods were used on the leather exhibits and if they were successfully used to visualise fingermarks.
4. Please disclose if the fingermarks on leather exhibits successfully yielded any identifications.
5. If yes to question 4, please provide data as to how many identifications were yielded from leather exhibits.

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 retrieve the information you have requested. Whilst the exhibit description field is a freetext entry, it is possible for this field to contain the word "leather", however the forensic system does not have a specific field to record the type of material for forensic submission, and therefore electronic searches for this information cannot be carried out.

To identify if an item seized is specifically leather would therefore require a manual review of all submission records for the dates specified. This would exceed the 18 hrs as prescribed by the FOI 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, 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.

3. 3 exhibits have been submitted to a Chemical Development Laboratory (CDL) where "leather" is included in the description.

Of those, 2 were treated with cyanoacrylate and 1 treated with white powder suspension. No marks found.

1 exhibit was submitted to CDL with "purse" in its description and where the material was recorded as "leather". This was examined with fluorescent light source, UV reflection, IR reflection and cyanoacrylate. No marks found

No fingerprint lift / marks recovered.

4. No successful yield

5. N/A

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