



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_24_0613

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 11/07/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0613

On 26/06/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am currently looking in to cases of fraud or theft involving certificates of sponsorship.

I would like to know:

1. Has your force received any reports of fraud/theft involving certificates of sponsorship since the beginning of this year? If so, how many?
2. If so, have they been referred on to Action Fraud?
3. How many of these cases have been referred back to you by Action Fraud since the beginning of the year for further investigation? How many have you decided to take on for further investigation?
4. In cases where your force has decided not to undertake further investigation, what was the reasoning behind this?
5. Is your force actively investigating any cases of fraud/theft involving certificates of sponsorship? If so, how many?
6. What stage are those investigations at?
7. Has your force concluded any investigations in cases of fraud/theft involving certificates of sponsorship? If so, how many, and did they result in any arrests or charges brought?
8. In cases where charges have been brought, what stage are these cases now at? Have any yet proceeded to court?
9. Can you share the names of any people who have been charged?
10. Does your force have a strategy in place to systematically handle cases involving certificate of sponsorship fraud? If so, what is this strategy?

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.

Q1-9. – No information held. The Force has not had any cases of fraud / theft involving Certificates of Sponsorship.

10. The Force does not have a specific strategy for this offence however as with all other fraud offences we would use the Fraud Investigation Model.

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