



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_24_0654

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 01/08/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0654

On 09/07/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. Since its implementation into law in 2017, please state how many people have been charged by your force with the offence of sexual communication with a child (Section 67, Serious Crime Act 2015)
2. Of the people charged, how many of them have been convicted?
3. How many of the offences recorded were initiated online and how many offline?

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.

Please note for Q2 that the Constabulary only holds data in relation to the number of individuals charged/summoned for a particular offence. The ultimate outcome of these offences depends on what happens at court i.e. whether the offender is found guilty (convicted) or not. This information comes from the court results which do not come within our systems. Hence we record the detection disposals for each case but do not have the ultimate conviction data.

Therefore any information relating to the outcome of a case, the length of sentence or whether any appeal was made is not held by the constabulary, but by the HM Courts Service. Please find a link below to their website:

www.justice.gov.uk/

A search has been completed on substantiated crimes between 01/01/2017 – 30/06/2024 where the offence of Engage in sexual communication with a child is present and also where the outcome of those crimes is charged. The data has been further filtered to show where there is a Cyber Tag added.

Please see the table below in response to Q1 & 3.

Year	Count	Cyber Tag
2017	2	1
2018	14	13
2019	4	3
2020	8	8
2021	6	5
2022	13	13
2023	6	6
2024	0	0

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