



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_24_0655
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 23/07/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0655

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

REQUEST 1:

What would you like to know?: In 2023, how many police hours were spent reviewing Force, Private, or Local Authority CCTV footage in relation to all criminal investigations?

REQUEST 2:

What would you like to know?: In 2023, how many police hours were spent reviewing Force, Private, or Local Authority CCTV footage in relation to physical/violent crime or sexual offence reports?

REQUEST 3:

What would you like to know?: In 2023, what proportion of Force CCTV cameras were monitored in real time by a human?

REQUEST 4:

What would you like to know?: In 2023, what proportion of Force CCTV cameras were monitored in real time by technology?

REQUEST 5:

We are committed to being an anti-discriminatory organisation. This means not only acting in a non-discriminatory way, but addressing systemic inequalities, disadvantage and discrimination.

What would you like to know?: Request for crime statistics- Please provide, per month for 2022 and 2023, the volume of each of the following offences: assault/violence, mugging, hate crime, and sexual offences (please categorise how you see fit).

REQUEST 6:

What would you like to know?: What number of the violent crimes reported in 2023 (including sexual offences) occurred in non-domestic locations? Non-domestic locations would include institutions (schools, nurseries, hospitals, care homes, etc.) in addition to public places.

REQUEST 7:

What would you like to know?: Referring to incidents that took place in institutions (schools, nurseries/kindergartens, hospitals/hospices, care homes etc.) - in 2023, how many police hours were spent reviewing available CCTV footage (Force, Local Authority, or Private) to aid the investigation?

REQUEST 8:

What would you like to know?: Referring to incidents that took place in institutions (schools, nurseries/kindergartens, hospitals/hospices, care homes etc.) - in 2023, in what proportion of cases did your teams find that the CCTV in question was not available or existent to corroborate the reported incident?

On 12/07/2024 a clarification email was sent to you with regards to Request 5 and asked if you were able to refer to the Home Office Crime Recording Rules and to confirm the specific offences you would like a search to be conducted for.

On 15/07/2024 a response was received to the clarification email confirming the following: Thank you for your quick response. Request 5 can be clarified as follows:

Request for crime statistics- Please provide, per month for 2022 and 2023, including all sub-categories, the volume of each of the following offences: violence against the person, robbery from the person, hate crime, and sexual offences.

I also wanted to mention that I've received responses from other forces, and it seems that most of the requests pertaining to CCTV fall under Section 12 of the FOI Act, with cost of the task exceeding appropriate limit and fees.

If this is also the case for Gloucestershire Police, I'd ask that all questions related to CCTV are disregarded, and these requests are considered instead:

- Could you provide an estimate for the average number of hours spent reviewing CCTV footage in Violence Against the person (inclusive of all sub-categories) criminal investigations in 2023? This only applies to cases where CCTV footage is available. I understand that this may mean manually examining crime records to see if time spent reviewing CCTV was recorded. If this is the case, please review the maximum amount you can while still falling under the "Appropriate Limits and Fees" Regulation threshold.

- Could you provide the percentage of Violence Against the Person criminal investigations in 2023 in which CCTV footage is reviewed? Again, if this requires manual examination of crime records, please only examine the maximum amount permitted under "Appropriate Limits and Fees

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

Unfortunately, it is not possible to electronically search for the information you have requested with regards to the number of hours spent reviewing CCTV footage for the Home Office Class of Violence Against the Person (inclusive of all sub-categories) criminal investigations in 2023. In order to identify and retrieve the requested information a manual review of hundreds of cases to ascertain whether CCTV has been reviewed and for how many hours. This manual review would exceed the 18 hours as prescribed by Section 12 of the 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, if you were to omit all the questions regarding reviewing CCTV. I can confirm that a search can be conducted for the crime statistics for the following offences, Violence against the person, robbery from the person and sexual offences with and without a hate crime tag which have been applied to the crimes from 01/01/2022 – 31/12/2023.

If this search would assist please resubmit a new FOI request.

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