



Your reference: N/A

Our reference: FOI_24_24_0703

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Date: 23/08/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0703

On 26/07/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I wish to request the following information from the Domestic Abuse surveys:

1. How many incidents of domestic abuse were reported by the public in 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024?
2. Of those reported, how many cases of domestic abuse were male victims? What was the nature of these incidents i.e which offence? (psychological, physical, sexual, emotional, coercive control, harassment, stalking, financial, online/digital?)
3. Of those reported, how many cases of domestic abuse were offences committed by women on male victims?
4. Of those reported, how many cases of domestic abuse were offences committed by men on male victims?
5. Of those reported, how many cases of domestic abuse (MALE & FEMALE) were in (a) Gloucester, (b) Cheltenham, (c) Forest, (d) Stroud, (e) Tewkesbury and (f) Cotswolds? (I'm looking at urban and rural divide).
6. Of those reported, how many cases of domestic abuse were MALE victims in (a) Gloucester, (b) Cheltenham, (c) Forest, (d) Stroud, (e) Tewkesbury and (f) Cotswolds?
7. Of those reported, what months did the cases of domestic abuse take place and in which of the areas listed above? (I'm looking at seasonal divide).
8. How many of those were perpetrated by women on male victims?
9. How many of those were perpetrated by men on male victims?
10. What were the police officer's response times for each domestic abuse incident/report/call?
11. How many of these cases resulted in a prosecution as a whole and how many resulted in a prosecution for male victims?
12. Of the reported domestic abuse cases, how many were given a domestic violence protection order and how many of these were male victims?

Clarification was sent on 29/07/2024 advising the following:

When an Individual contacts the police and it's deemed to be a police matter, an incident will be created on the Incident Recording System. If that incident is deemed to fall within the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime, a crime will be recorded on the Crime Recording System.

Please note that the word "incident" in Gloucestershire Constabulary's terminology refers to a type of record, not the event as a whole. If an offence is being reported (rather than a missing person for example) the "incident" will be assessed to determine if the offence falls within the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime. If that incident is deemed to fall within the counting rules, a "crime" will be recorded on the Crime Recording System.

The Incident Recording System is largely a free text entry system and does not record information in as much detail as the Crime Recording System and therefore its reporting function is limited. I can confirm that whilst there are some recording tags that may be relevant to your request used within this system, they will not answer your enquiry in full.

As such, a manual review and cross reference of records will be required in order to determine if relevant information is held, which may become subject to the Section 12 cost refusal.

As an alternative we can base our searches on the crime recording system only, as we are able to electronically extract more meaningful information.

Please note this will mean some of your questions above cannot be answered. Please confirm that you are happy for this to progress on this basis?

A response to the clarification was received on 30/07/2024 with the following:
It would seem sensible to proceed on the crime recording basis so that more meaningful information can be extracted without potential cost implications.

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

Unfortunately, it is not possible to electronically search for the information you have requested with regards to how many of the reported domestic abuse cases, were given a domestic violence protection order and how many of these were male victims. In order to identify and retrieve the requested information relating to the gender of the victims who has had Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPO) issued, a manual review of all DVPO's would need to be conducted. This manual review would exceed the 18 hours as 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, if you resubmit questions 1 – 9 as this data is relating to the Crime Recording System.

With regards to question 10, this information is not held on our crime recording system, this is recorded on our Incident Recording System.

With regards to question 11, this is Court related data

Please note 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/

if this would assist please resubmit your request omitting question 11 and 12.

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