



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_24_0730

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 29/08/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0730

On 07/08/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. In November 2011, how many officers have did your force have with either Level 1 or 2 Public Order Training? Please provide a breakdown at each level.
2. As of 01.08.24, how many officers have did your force have with either Level 1 or 2 Public Order Training? Please provide a breakdown at each level.

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

1. The Constabulary can confirm our records do not go back to 2011.
2. We are unable to provide the figure of Level 1 or 2 Public Order Trained Officers as of 01/08/2024 as this information is exempt by virtue of Section 31 of the Freedom of Information Act

Section 17 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.

With regard to the above requested information, the following exemptions apply:

S.31 – Law Enforcement

The exemption above is qualified and prejudice based therefore both a Public Interest Test and Harm Test are required.

Evidence of Harm

To disclose the requested information could cause subsequent harm to the Constabulary's ability to protect the public it serves and could prejudice its ability to perform core functions such as the prevention and detection of crime.

Releasing such specific figures and in effect operational tactics relating to response capabilities would give individuals the intelligence required to disrupt police activity and will 'give way' to the capability of criminals, to target innocent members of the public.

On a national level, criminals would be able to identify in which force areas resources are weak, and use this knowledge to their own advantage in furthering criminal activity around the country.

The disclosure of information which is likely to undermine the Police service's ability to serve the public in preventing and detecting crime can only be considered as being harmful to the public.

Public Interest Test

Factors in Favour of Disclosure

The disclosure of this information would lead to a better awareness of the policing resource in the County and provide information and reassurance to the public that adequate resources are in place to protect the Community.

Factors against Disclosure

The disclosure of information at this level would compromise law enforcement tactics by identifying policing capabilities and resources available, thereby enabling criminals to target their activities to certain areas. This would enable more crime to be committed and have an impact on police resources, thereby hindering the prevention and detection of crime.

Balance Test

The Police Service is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing activity and providing assurance that the police service is appropriately and effectively resourced, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding the integrity of police operations, tactics and capabilities in order to ensure that the protection of the public is safeguarded. Therefore it is our opinion that the balance of the public interest favours withholding the information.

This acts as a refusal notice for this part of your 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