



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_24_0740

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 09/09/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0740

On 12/08/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am making this request on behalf of ACTS FAST, a Dorset-based charity which supports family members across the country who have been impacted by child sexual abuse, and family members and partners of individuals who have accessed Indecent Images of Children (IIOC).

As part of our ongoing research, we are seeking to identify the prevalence and apparent increase of this type of offending behaviour, with a view to illustrating just how many families are being impacted by IIOC. Non-offending partners and child family members are secondary victims and require ongoing support to address and manage the traumatic impact that occurs when the warrant is executed.

Section 1 of the Protection of Children Act 1978 and section 160 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 are the two main statutes that legislate offences around Indecent Images of Children.

We are seeking to gather information from all Police Forces on the following:

- How many search warrants under Section 1 of the Protection of Children Act 1978 and Section 160 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 have been executed each year over the last 10 years, from 2014 to 2024.

Whilst I appreciate it is unlikely we will be able to ascertain whether or not partners or children were present at the time of the warrant being executed, it is important that we gather as much information as possible to demonstrate the true scale of this crime.

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

Unfortunately there is no central register for this information and no way to retrieve the information by way of electronic searches. The only way of trying to determine whether any relevant information is held and to retrieve that information would be to manually review each individual crime report, and any further records associated to that crime report, from the last 10 years. This would involve the review of thousands of records and would therefore take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by the Freedom of Information Act.

When applying Section 12 exemption, our duty to assist under Section 16 of the Act would normally entail that we contact you to determine whether it is possible to refine the scope of your request to bring it within the cost limits. However, from the information we have outlined above I see no reasonable way in which we can do so; even reducing the timescale would not reduce the number of records enough that a manual review could be conducted within the timescale but still provide meaningful information.

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.

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