



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_24_0759

E-mail: FOI

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Direct dial: 01452 754304

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Date: 04/10/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0759

On 16/08/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Background:

Emerging from a super-complaint made in 2018 regarding data sharing between the police and Home Office, calls for a data 'firewall' between policing and immigration enforcement have grown in the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities and BAME support sectors. <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5fdb0fa4e90e071be0347ac3/safe-to-share-liberty-southall-black-sisters-super-complaint-policing-immigration-status.pdf>

Recently, the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) completed an 'end-to-end review' to understand the extent of their data sharing. The review found that data was being sent to the Home Office primarily through an automated NICHE process created in June 2018 as part of Operation Nexus. NICHE is an electronic records and case management system used by many police forces across the United Kingdom <https://nichirms.com/who-we-serve/>. Other police forces may use different electronic records and case management systems/information recording systems, such as STORM, or may use a combination of multiple systems.

The NICHE process task directed investigating officers to complete a 'Foreign National Entry' form, which explicitly stated that officers must contact Home Office Immigration Enforcement for 'guidance on immigration status' every time a 'foreign national' had an official recorded interaction with the police. The text of the 'Foreign National Entry' form/template stated:

“You have been identified as the IO in an occurrence involving a non UK national. As part of your investigation, and regardless of the nature of the involvement of the individual, you should ensure that you have captured the following information and updated Niche accordingly.

Full name(s):

Gender:

DOB:

Town of Birth:

Home address (N. Ireland & abroad): Abroad:

National ID number:

Passport details:

Country of birth:

Nationality:

Parent's names;

In addition, you must ensure that you:

Conduct person checks on NICHE and PNC.

Contact Home Office Immigration Enforcement Command and Control Unit for guidance on immigration status and advice on nationality issues/identity documents: 03000 134 999 or 0161 2611 6403. If applicable seek a Foreign criminal record check immediately. (Submit UKCA 1 form to zInternationalLiaison). For further advice and guidance contact the Extradition & International Mutual Assistance team on ext. 69600 or email zInternationalLiaison.”

We are seeking to understand if Gloucestershire Constabulary has the same or similar NICHE process task and ‘Foreign National Entry’ form.

This is an FoI request for:

1. Confirmation that the Gloucestershire Constabulary does or does not use the NICHE electronic records and case management system (<https://nicherms.com/who-we-serve/>). If not, please confirm the electronic records and case management system(s)/information recording system(s) that you use.
2. What information Gloucestershire Constabulary holds regarding tasking processes (or equivalent) for investigating officers, restricted to processes/forms/tasks involving collecting data on foreign nationals, this may be titled ‘Foreign National Entry’ template (as seen above) or similar.
2(a) copies of documents captured by (2) above.
3. What information Gloucestershire Constabulary has in relation to data processing contracts, Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), service-level agreements (SLAs) and/or information sharing-agreements with the Home Office in line with section 6.7 of the Police information and records management Code of Practice.
3(a) Copies of documents captured by (3) above

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

1. Gloucestershire Constabulary does not currently use Niche.
2. No information held.

3. No information held.

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