



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_24_0762

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 21/10/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0762

On 19/08/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Coleford police staffing levels for Coleford and how staffing works. Which areas did they attend in the last quarter?

On 28/08/2024 we asked you to clarify your request, you confirmed:

The query was more around staffing levels, so how many officers are assigned per shift at any given time as a minimum baseline amount? I understand there may be variance depending on annual leave, sickness and so on.

1. What would be the baseline?
2. How far to these officers have to travel – to what areas – to cover crimes?
3. Would they be expected to attend to crimes outside of the Coleford/The Forest of Dean/Gloucestershire/The South West etc?
4. What areas were they sent to during the last quarter?

Please note for ease I have reformatted your request.

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

In regards to question 2 and 4 the information you have requested is not recorded information. The whole purpose of the Freedom of Information Act is that we provide you with recorded information.

There is no central register to record how far officers have to travel from one incident to the next. The only way to get this information would be to look at each incident that the individual officers have attended and to then work backwards to find out if their location

when they were assigned that call is recorded. To manually review all these incidents would take longer than the 18 hours prescribed by the Freedom of Information 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.

Unfortunately, I'm unable to assist in suggesting ways of refining your request to come within the confines of Section 12 of the Act. 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.

Providing Information Outside of the Act

By way of assistance and although excess cost removes the Force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, we have supplied the information relevant to your request which has already been retrieved. We trust this is helpful but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

1. The baseline target for all shifts is 47
3. It is an expectation that officers attend any incidents within our Force area. They are not expected to attend any incidents outside of our Force area however, could be called upon to provide Mutual Aid.

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