



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI\_24\_0779

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\_0779**

On 23/08/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am writing to make a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I would be grateful if you could provide me with the following information:

1. The number of reported incidents received by your police force from members of the public or your own officers that involve the following terms in their descriptions or classifications:

- o Ghosts
- o Demons
- o Monsters
- o Paranormal phenomena
- o Supernatural entities
- o Poltergeists
- o Apparitions
- o UFO's
- o Aliens
- o Other similar terms associated with paranormal or supernatural activity.

2. The time period I am requesting covers the past five years, from August 2019 to August 2024

3. For each relevant report, where possible, please include:

- o The date of the report
- o A brief description of the incident (redacted to remove personal identifying information)
- o The location (e.g., city, town) but also in more detail such as train station (e.g. Kings Cross), hospital, police station, school, prison, church, forest, hotel, historic homes, lighthouse, theatre, mosque, library, museum, derelict buildings house, shop, airport, underground, factory, graveyard, morgue - of the reported incident.

o Any outcomes or actions taken in response to the report

4. If the information is available in electronic format, I would prefer to receive it by email in an Excel spreadsheet format.

I understand that you may need to redact certain details for privacy and data protection reasons, and I am happy to accept redacted versions of the reports.

If for any reason this request exceeds the cost limit for FOI requests, please provide as much of the information as possible within the cost limit, focusing on the number of reports and their general descriptions.

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

The Constabulary does not have a specific tag or category for incidents associated with paranormal or supernatural activity in our Incident Recording System. In order to try and try and ascertain if we hold any relevant information we would need to conduct a search for the dates requested and a free text search of all terms you have listed. A manual review would then be required to determine if the record is relevant to your request.

For a previous request a search was conducted for just the terms 'UFO', 'Alien', 'UAP' and 'Spaceship' for the dates of 01/01/2020 – 19/07/2023, this returned 330 recorded incidents and therefore we were unable to manually review these records. As your request has a larger time scale and more terms to search this would take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed.

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, to reduce the time scale for example by 12 month period, it may be possible to retrieve relevant data however, may still attract the section 12 exemption.

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](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)

Post –

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

Disclosure Officer  
Gloucestershire Constabulary