



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_24_0834

E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 01/11/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0834

On 11/09/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. How many times in the last 5 calendar years has your Police Force broken into the wrong home address by mistake searching for evidence?
2. How many times did your Police Force:
 - a) Use breaking in as a first resort
 - b) Consider and use less intrusive methods of pursuing evidence?
3. What is the highest, lowest and average compensation or restitution paid?

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

Unfortunately, the information held regarding the topic of your request is limited. The only available records held are back to 2022 and unfortunately do not include details of the relevant incidents or crimes that the instances relate to.

As such, I'm only able to confirm the following information:

2 x instances of forced entry to the wrong property over each of the years 2024, 2023 and 2022 (6 in total).

Compensation totalling £7,328 over the 3 years was paid out. To break this down any further would likely disclose personal information and is therefore exempt under Section 40 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 disclosure of any further breakdown on compensation paid, the following exemption applies:

Section 40(2) Personal Information

Section 40(2) applies to third party personal data. This would not be released under the Freedom of Information Act unless there is a strong public interest. The disclosure of any information which could lead to the identification of an individual would breach the Data Protection Principles contained with the Data Protection Act 2018, namely the first principle which states that personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to individuals

This exemption is absolute and class based therefore I am not required to apply either the public interest test or harm test in disclosure.

In accordance with the Act, this letter represents 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