



Your reference: N/A

Our reference: FOI_24_0858

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 14/10/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0858

On 19/09/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Under FOI rules, please could you provide me with the following information regarding unauthorised car meets.

Split by calendar year from 1 January 2022 to date, please provide the following;

1. Number of reports of unauthorised car meets Number of times officers have attended unauthorised car meets Number of arrests made at unauthorised car meets
2. In addition, please can you advise if you have any Section 35 dispersal orders in place to tackle unauthorised car meets?
 - a. If so how many and when were they first authorised?

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

Unfortunately, it's not possible to electronically search for the information you have requested.

The Incident Recording System does not have a tag/category of incidents regarding unauthorised car meets. In order to retrieve any potential information, we'd have to manually review all incidents for the time period specified. As the Constabulary records approximately 500 incidents per day, this would clearly take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Similarly, the Custody recording system does not have a tag/category relating to arrests at unauthorised car meets. Therefore in order to ascertain how many arrests may have taken place at such car meets, a manual review of all custody episodes would be required. This again would take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

With regard to question 2, there is no central register of potential Section 35 Dispersal Orders. In order to ascertain what information may be held, each Local Policing Area would need to be canvassed. It has been estimated that this would likely take longer than the 18 hours allowed under Section 12 as well.

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.

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