



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_24_0872

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 09/10/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0872

On 24/09/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

This request relates to the Police Force's use of psychics (by which I mean all types of psychics, clairvoyants, 'remote viewers', mediums, astrologers, mind-readers, etc.)

1. In the last three years, how many times has the police force actively engaged with a psychic for the purpose of using their services?
2. In the last three years, how many times has the force paid for the services of a psychic in relation to a criminal case?
3. In the last three years, how many times has the police force been contacted by psychics offering to help with a criminal investigation?
4. Does the police force have any written policy regarding the use of psychics in criminal investigations? If so, please provide me with a copy.

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

With regards to Q3, there is no central register for this information and no way to retrieve the information by way of electronic searches. The Constabulary does not compile any separate records relating to Mediums, Psychics, Clairvoyants etc. therefore the only way to determine if Gloucestershire Constabulary has been contacted any would be to manually review all incident reports. As we record approximately 500 reports per day, to manually review reports for the last 3 years would take much 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.

Under Section 16 of the Act, unfortunately I'm unable to provide any advice for how you could refine your request to come within the cost constraints of Section 12. Even if we apply a keyword search, due to the common use of the word "medium" it is unlikely to reduce the number of crimes enough to make a manual review possible.

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

Q1, 2 & 4 – No information held

Gloucestershire Constabulary does not actively seek assistance from Mediums, Psychics, Clairvoyants etc.

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