



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_24_0879

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 23/10/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0879

On 26/09/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I didn't think there would be so many suicides in Gloucestershire.

You didn't provide the number of cases that would have to be trawled, so I am asking for one month's figures only to get some indication of frequency to assist with a request I may make next year.

Please provide the information requested for December 2023 only.

1. For December 2023, please provide the number of deaths you reported as 'suspected suicide'.
2. Please provide the number of reviews you carried out during the same period of decisions taken by attending officers to designate deaths as 'suspected suicide'.

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

When a member of the public calls the police and it is deemed to be a police matter an incident is recorded, if this falls within the counting rules it is then recorded as a crime. The incident recording system is mainly free text record.

We do not have an opening or closing code that denotes an incident was a suicide however we do have opening and closing codes for "sudden death". We have conducted a search on the opening and closing codes for "sudden death" for December 2023 which has resulted in 99 records.

These have been manually reviewed and none of them categorically state that the coroner has confirmed that any of them are suicides.

We would not 'report' any death as a 'suspected suicide' but provide all relevant information to the Coroner to enable them to complete their investigation. A death reported to the Coroner would be designated as a suspicious or unexpected death in these circumstances. Therefore, you may wish to direct a request to them.

For transparency I can also confirm the total amount of records to be manually reviewed for the financial year 2023/2024 with the code of "sudden death" is 938 records.

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