



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_24_0888

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 18/10/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0888

On 30/09/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

This request relates to cases of abandoned babies (infants under the age of 2) that have been investigated by your force over the last decade. Please include babies that have been found dead and alive.

1. Please state the number of cases of infant abandonment that have been investigated by your force in each of the following years: a) 2015, b) 2016, c) 2017, d) 2018, e) 2019, f) 2020, g) 2021, h) 2022, i) 2023, j) 2024 so far.

2. If possible, for each case please provide the following information:

- a) Was the infant found dead or alive?
- b) What was the estimated age of the infant when discovered (in weeks/months)?
- c) In what type of location was the infant found? (I.e., park / public toilet / hospital, rather than address)

If it is not possible to answer questions 2b and 2c, I would be grateful if you could respond with answers to questions 1 and 2a only.

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

Police Forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data. It should be noted that for these reasons the figures given relate to information from the specific recording system of Gloucestershire Constabulary and should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you receive.

Please note that our systems are designed to record information for policing purposes and the investigation of crime and not to extract statistical information. Accordingly whilst we endeavour to extract relevant data within the time limits of the Act, any data supplied is subject to these limitations.

I can confirm a search has been conducted of our Crime Recording System for all substantiated crimes recorded between 01/01/2015 and 17/10/2024 the offence of 012/00 - Abandoning child under two years. This has returned 0 results.

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