



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_24_0889
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 28/10/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0889

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please reveal:

- 1) How many times so far in 2024 have police have been called to the Gloucestershire Royal Infirmary?
- 2) How many of these incidents were related to drugs or suspected drug use?
- 3) As a comparison, please provide how many times police were called to the Gloucestershire Royal Infirmary in the first nine months of 2023.
- 4) Please reveal how many of those incidents in the first nine months of 2023 were related to drugs or suspected drug use?
- 5) How many times so far in 2024 have police have been called to Cheltenham General Hospital?
- 6) How many of these incidents were related to drugs or suspected drug use?
- 7) As a comparison, please provide how many times police were called to Cheltenham General Hospital in the first nine months of 2023.
- 8) Please reveal how many of those incidents in the first nine months of 2023 were related to drugs or suspected drug use?
- 9) Since it opened in May 2024, how many times have police been called to the Forest of Dean Community Hospital?
- 10) How many of these incidents were related to drugs or suspected drug use?

Clarification was sought on 02/10/2024 advising that the Incident Recording System is a free text entry system, therefor in order to conduct the correct searches, please could you provide the term you wish for us to search for in the location field i.e. Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, GRH etc.

A response to the clarification was received on 03/10/2024 advising the following terms to search for:

Gloucestershire Royal
Gloucestershire Royal Hospital
Gloucestershire Royal Infirmary
GRH
GL1 3NN

And:

Cheltenham General
Cheltenham General Hospital
CGH
GL53 7AN

Further clarification was sought on 15/10/2024 asking if you are able to clarify if you mean where the incidents are drug related if the police were called as they were informed that a person had an amount of drugs on them or within their belongings.

A response to the clarification was received on 17/10/2024 advising, yes if the police were called as they were informed that a person had an amount of drugs on them or within their belongings, or suspected of having drugs on them or within their belongings. And of any suspected or actual drug use.

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

Unfortunately, it is not possible to electronically search for the information you have requested regarding the number of incidents where the police have been called to Gloucestershire Royal Hospital or Cheltenham General Hospital for drug related incidents. A search has been conducted for records where the closure code for the incident has been recorded as 'Drugs', however, there are many reasons for a closure on an incident regardless whether drugs may have been involved in the incident or not. In order to identify and retrieve information relevant to your request, a manual review of all incidents would need to be conducted which would exceed the 18 hours as prescribed by Section 12 of 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.

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

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.

Following receipt of your request, initial searches were conducted on the Incident Recording System for all incidents recorded between 01/01/2023 – 30/09/2023 and 01/01/2024 – 24/09/2024 where the free text location field contained the following terms:
Gloucestershire Royal Infirmary
Gloucestershire Royal
Gloucestershire Royal Hospital
GL1 3NN
Cheltenham General
Cheltenham General Hospital
CGH
GL53 7AN

A further search has been conducted on the Incident Recording System for all incidents recorded between 01/05/2024 – 24/09/2024, where the free text location field contained: Forest of Dean Community Hospital.

In an amalgamated response please see the following:

The number of incidents reported at Cheltenham General Hospital, Gloucestershire Royal Hospital and Forest of Dean Community Hospital in 2024 there have been 748 Incidents recorded.

The number of incident reported at Cheltenham General Hospital, Gloucestershire Royal Hospital in 2023 there have been 815 Incidents recorded.

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