



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_24_0962

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 30/10/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0962

On 25/10/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I would like to know how many arrests you made under Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 in the following years: 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and the first nine months of 2024. Please can you provide separate figures for each year.

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.

The primary function of the Constabulary's Arrest Recording System is to assist the Constabulary in adhering to Code C of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. As such, its reporting function is limited. The system does not record detentions under specific offences under the Home Office Crime Recording Rules or by using the name of an Act (i.e. Communications Act 2003); instead it uses Reason for Arrest (RFA) Categories. On review of Section 27 of the communications Act, I have identified the appropriate RFA of Malicious Communications to base searches on. The results have been provided below.

Year	Total
2017	18
2018	31
2019	55
2020	71
2021	86
2022	126
2023	100
2024	80
TOTAL	567

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