



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI\_24\_1011

E-mail: FOI  
@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 09/12/2024

Dear

**Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI\_24\_1011**

On 13/11/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

We are writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("FOIA 2000") to request information regarding the Gloucestershire Constabulary handling of human trafficking cases over the past 5-10 years.

Specifically, we are requesting the following information, broken down by calendar year if possible:

1. Please provide the total number of reports or complaints related to human trafficking received by the Gloucestershire Constabulary each year.
  - a. This data should include all initial reports made either (i) directly by individuals or third-party organisations, (ii) through the National Referral Mechanism and/or (iii) by any other means.
  - b. When answering this question, please provide copies of any and all documents relating to the recording of victims of trafficking and/or modern slavery referrals.
2. Of the reports received (as per item 1), please specify how many cases resulted in an investigation being formally opened each year.
3. Of the reports received (as per item 1), please provide the number of Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) interviews conducted in relation to these reports each year.
4. Please provide the number of cases, from those investigated (as per item 2), that resulted in prosecutions. Within this data, I would appreciate a breakdown as follows:
  - a. Number of prosecutions against the same people that were referred to the police force as potential victims of trafficking and/or modern slavery
  - b. Number of prosecutions against the alleged trafficker(s)
5. Please provide copies of all documents, guidance, and training materials outlining the procedures followed by [the relevant police force] staff when handling potential human trafficking and/or modern slavery referrals, including, but not limited to, the investigation of reported cases of human trafficking and/or modern slavery.

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

Unfortunately, it's not possible to electronically search for the information you have requested.

There is no central register of reports/complaints relating to human trafficking. Such reports may come into the Constabulary via several different routes; individuals contacting the police directly whereby an Incident and/or Crime may be recorded, Partner Agencies whereby an Incident and/or Crime may be recorded or it may be recorded as Intelligence, or via the National Referral Mechanism.

In order to try to ascertain the number of reports/complaints relating to human trafficking, a manual review of several different systems would be required. Unfortunately none of the system have a specific tag/category to denote this type of offence. Therefore thousands of records would need to be manually reviewed to try to ascertain how many reports are held.

Please see below for suggestions on how you may be able to refine your request to come within the cost constraints of Section 12 of the 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, duty to assist, I can confirm that if you submit a new request to [foi@gloucestershire.police.uk](mailto:foi@gloucestershire.police.uk) we may be able to assist with question 5.

I can also confirm that the Constabulary records crimes as per the [Home Office Crime Recording Rules](#). As such, we can search for the number of specific crimes recorded and the police outcomes. If such information would be useful, please submit a new request.

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](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)

Post –

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer  
Gloucestershire Constabulary