



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_24_1031
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 13/12/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_1031

On 17/11/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I would like to obtain information pertaining to the attendance of police in schools in your region for incidents from 2014 to the current date and the type of incidents recorded as follows;

1. The total number of recorded incidents for which police were asked to attend a primary or secondary school in your region since 2014 to the current time
2. The five most common reasons (as categorised in your records) for police attendance at those incidents for the same time period as in point 1 above.
3. The number of such incidents for which your record makes reference to a mobile phone/smartphone/iPhone being involved in the incident or in part of the incident for the same time period as in point 1 above.

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

When an Individual contacts the police and it is deemed to be a police matter, an incident will be created on the Incident Recording System. Please note that the word "incident" in Gloucestershire Constabulary's terminology refers to a type of record, not the event as a whole. If an offence is being reported (rather than a missing person for example) the "incident" will be assessed to determine if the offence falls within the Home Office Crime Recording Rules. If that incident is deemed to fall within the counting rules, a "crime" will be recorded on the Crime Recording System.

Please note that the Incident Recording System is largely a free text entry system and does not record information in as much detail as the Crime Recording System and therefore its reporting function is limited.

Unfortunately there is no way of electronically searching for the information you have requested. The Incident Recording System does not have any way of identifying a school, other than where the word is recorded within the report, therefore in order to ascertain incidents that relate to such locations, a manual review of all incidents for the years requested would be required. Given that the Constabulary records approximately 500 incidents per day, this would clearly take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

In addition to this, due to the unstructured nature of a free text system, whilst there are keyword searches that can be carried out to narrow down the results, in order to determine if police have attended a general local area in connection with primary or secondary schools, a manual review of all records would be required, as above. This would far exceed the permitted time constraints, Section 12 of the Act is applicable. This section 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 of 18 hours, equating to £450.00

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.

Section 16 – unable to assist

Unfortunately, I'm unable to assist in suggesting ways of refining your request to come within the confines of Section 12 of the Act. Even reducing the timescale would not reduce the number of records enough that a manual review could be conducted within the timescale but still provide meaningful information.

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