



Your reference: N/A

Our reference: FOI_24_1041

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 16/12/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_1041

On 19/11/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am writing to make an open government request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please provide the following data on non-crime hate incidents, for the period between January 1st, 2019 to the current date, broken down by calendar year.

Please send me:

1. The total number of non-crime hate incidents recorded by your police force from January 1st, 2019 to the current date. Please break down the data by calendar year.
2. A breakdown of non-crime hate incidents recorded in your jurisdiction from January 1st, 2019 to the current date. The data should be categorised by type of perceived hate (e.g., race, religion, sexual orientation, disability, transgender identity etc.).
3. Details of any follow-up actions taken by the police or other agencies in relation to non-crime hate incidents reported from January 1st, 2019 to the current date. For example, were any individuals referred to support services?
4. Provide anonymised demographic data (e.g., age, gender, ethnicity) of individuals involved in non-crime hate incidents recorded between January 1st, 2019 to the current date. This should include both complainants and alleged offenders.
5. How many non-crime hate incidents were recorded in your jurisdiction involving online or social media activity between January 1st, 2019 to the current date?
6. How many non-crime hate incidents reported between January 1st, 2019 to the current date were later reclassified as criminal offences?

Please could you provide the information in the form of a spreadsheet (csv or xlsx) – that would be super helpful, and please could you respond and send the data to this email address!

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits (Section 12), it would be great if you could provide advice and assistance, (Section 16 obligations of the Act), as to how I can refine my request – please bear in mind the regional clarification above if local authority isn't possible. If you hold information on some parts of the request but not others, please could you provide that information, rather than a blanket refusal (I know you are probably aware not to do this already but you would be surprised!)

Please respond to as many points that are within the cost of compliance limits.

Generally If you can identify any ways that my request could be refined I would be grateful!

Thank you for your time and I look forward to your response.

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

When a member of the public contacts the police and it's deemed to be a police matter, an Incident is recorded on the Incident Recording System. If it's then deemed to fall within the Home Office Crime Recording Rules, a Crime is recorded on the Crime Recording System.

The non-crime hate incidents, as the name suggests, are only recorded on the Incident Recording System. This system is largely free text and essentially records the caller's report of a potential offence.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to electronically search for the information you have requested regarding to non-crime hate incidents. In order to identify and retrieve the requested information, a manual review of over 1363 incidents would be required, as there is no facility to breakdown the strand of hate recorded on the Incident Recording System, also a manual review of the incidents would need to be conducted to ascertain what follow-up actions were taken, any demographic data of the individuals involved and involved online or social media

A manual review would take longer than 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.

When applying Section 12 exemption our duty to assist under Section 16 of the Act would normally entail that we contact you to determine whether it is possible to refine the scope of your request to bring it within the cost limits. However, from the information we have outlined above along with the questions 2 – 6 of your request, I see no reasonable way in which we can do so. 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

Providing Information Outside of the Act

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, I can confirm searches of the Incident Recording System has been conducted for incidents between 01/01/2019 – 19/11/2024, where no crime reference has been added to the incident and has a tag of 'HATE' attached.

1. Please see the below for the annual breakdown

Year	Total
2019	292
2020	256
2021	211
2022	161

2023	173
2024	270
Total	1363

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