



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_24_1108
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 09/01/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_1108

On 09/12/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Please find a Freedom Of Information request for your consideration below.

Please could you disclose -

1. From April 1st 2024 to present:
 - a. The number of reports where sodium nitrite was recorded.
 - b. The number of attendances where sodium nitrite was recorded.
 - c. The number of deaths attended where sodium nitrite was recorded.
 - d. The number of welfare checks made relating to sodium nitrite.
2. From April 1st 2023 to March 31st 2024:
 - a. The number of reports where sodium nitrite was recorded.
 - b. The number of attendances where sodium nitrite was recorded.
 - c. The number of deaths attended where sodium nitrite was recorded.
 - d. The number of welfare checks made relating to sodium nitrite.
3. From April 1st 2022 to March 31st 2023
 - a. The number of reports where sodium nitrite was recorded.
 - b. The number of attendances where sodium nitrite was recorded.
 - c. The number of deaths attended where sodium nitrite was recorded.
 - d. The number of welfare checks made relating to sodium nitrite.
4. April 1st 2021 to March 31st 2022
 - a. The number of reports where sodium nitrite was recorded.
 - b. The number of attendances where sodium nitrite was recorded.
 - c. The number of deaths attended where sodium nitrite was recorded.
 - d. The number of welfare checks made relating to sodium nitrite.
5. April 1st 2020 to March 31st 2021

- a. The number of reports where sodium nitrite was recorded.
- b. The number of attendances where sodium nitrite was recorded.
- c. The number of deaths attended where sodium nitrite was recorded.
- d. The number of welfare checks made relating to sodium nitrite.

If you are minded refusing on time and cost grounds, please answer as much as possible sequentially from question 1.

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

To provide a definitive response, a manual review of all Sudden Death incident records would be required to determine the cause of death. We have identified over 1,060 sudden death incident records from the period of 01/04/2021 – 09/12/2024. A manual review of these records would far exceed the permitted time constraints, therefore Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act is applicable. This section does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimated that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit of 18 hours, equating to £450.00

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, a search of all recorded incidents can be recorded with a keyword search, however you would need to provide a list of keywords on which you would like a search to be conducted for, however this may still engage in Section 12 under the Freedom of Information Act.

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