



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_24_1113

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 14/01/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_1113

On 11/12/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Our charity (League Against Cruel Sports) is focussed on ending hunting animals with hounds. We are a participant in the UK Police National Working Group on Hunting with Hounds and we deliver analysis on hunting issues including the cub hunting season.

Our request is to provide a statistical figure for the number for calls for service (calls to police from the public) in relation to fox hunting (traditional red coat hunting only if possible).

The time period will be: on or after 01/08/2024 to (including) 31/10/2024 Second figure (if possible) is to provide a statistical figure for the number of times police officers attended a call for service for this type of activity.

Further information provided on 13/12/2024:

It has been pointed out by another force that my request may not be quite right as Calls for service relates only to when police attend, and not when public call to report an incident. Also the system of recording is likely to not have a code or category for hunting so may need to have search terms.

Therefore....

I would like to ask if I can expand the search to cover calls from the public (not just calls for service - thank you for the explanation)

Keep the dates the same please

Search terms

- Hunt

- Hunting
- Fox Hunt
- Fox Hunting
- Cub Hunting
- Cubbing
- Hounds

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's deemed to be a police matter, an incident will be created on the Incident Recording System. If that incident is deemed to fall within the Home Office Crime Recording 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.

I can confirm that the information you have requested may be held by Gloucestershire Constabulary, however we do not record such instances statistically, nor is the information held in a format that would allow extraction within the permitted time constraints.

A search has been conducted of Gloucestershire Constabulary's Incident Recording System for the date range of 01/08/2024 – 31/10/2024 using the keywords provided. This has returned over 400 records. This number does not necessarily mean that over 400 incidents are relevant to your request, however in order to ascertain how many/if any are, a manual review of these records is required. This would take longer than the 18 hours prescribed by 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:

- Determining whether information is held
- Locating it
- Retrieving it
- 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 – Duty 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; reducing the timescale would reduce the number of records so that a manual review may be conducted within the timescale, but this would not 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