



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_24_1127

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_1127

On 17/12/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the staffing, workload, and court appearances of police officers in Cheltenham for the period December 2022 to December 2023. Specifically, I would like to request the following information:

Crime Statistics for Cheltenham

A comprehensive list of all reported crimes in Cheltenham from December 2022 to December 2023, including but not limited to:

- Assault (all types, including physical and sexual)
- Robbery
- Burglary
- Theft (including vehicle theft, shoplifting, etc.)
- Drug-related offenses
- Criminal damage
- Public disorder offenses
- Hate crimes
- Domestic violence
- Fraud and financial crime
- Cybercrime and online offenses

Please include the number of reported incidents for each crime category, along with the outcome (e.g., arrests made, charges filed, or cases closed).

Officer Workload and Case Handling

Please provide the following information on officers handling these criminal cases:

- The roles of officers involved (e.g., PCSO, Constable, Sergeant).

- The number of officers working on each crime type (e.g., assault, robbery, theft, etc.).
- The number of officers handling multiple cases at once.
- The total number of officers involved in cases during this period.

Officers Handling Multiple Cases Simultaneously

For officers who worked on multiple cases at the same time, please provide:

- The number of officers who worked on multiple cases.
- The types of roles these officers held (e.g., PCSO, Constable).
- A breakdown of the types of cases they worked on simultaneously (e.g., assault, robbery, sexual offenses).

Publicly Available Officer Names

Please provide the names of officers involved in publicly reported cases (e.g., those mentioned in court cases, press releases, or public reports) during December 2022 to December 2023. This should include:

- The names and roles (e.g., Constable, PCSO, Sergeant) of officers involved in any publicly reported cases.
- Any information regarding the types of cases they were involved in (e.g., assault, robbery, fraud).

Officers Involved in Court Cases

Please provide information on officers who have appeared in court during the same period:

- The names of officers who have testified or been involved in court cases related to criminal offenses.
- The number of court cases each officer has been involved in.
- The roles of these officers (e.g., PCSO, Constable, Sergeant) in relation to the court cases they attended.

Policies on Conflict of Interest or Favoritism

Please provide information about any procedures in place to avoid conflicts of interest or favoritism when officers are assigned to multiple cases, particularly when handling overlapping cases or those involving similar suspects or victims.

- Are there specific policies to ensure fairness and impartiality in handling multiple cases?

Officer Experience and Case Allocation

I would also like to request information on:

- The level of experience or rank of the officers working on these cases.
- The process for assigning officers to cases, particularly whether workload, case severity, or any other factors contribute to the assignment process.

Crime Hotspots in Cheltenham

Please provide information on crime hotspots in Cheltenham, specifically areas where:

- Assaults (physical or sexual) and other crimes are most frequent.
- Other types of crimes (e.g., burglary, robbery, drug-related offenses) are concentrated.

Interpreters and Language Barriers

Please provide information on how often interpreters have been used in criminal cases, particularly related to victims or suspects with language barriers.

Any Other Relevant Information

If there is any other relevant publicly available information regarding officer workload, case handling, or any other related matters from December 2022 to December 2023, please include it.

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.

I can confirm that whilst a search of the Incident Recording System can be carried out to extract the number of incidents recorded, and a breakdown of the Local Policing Area and type of offence can be provided, the outcome (i.e. arrest, charge, NFA ect.) cannot be extracted from this system. In order to be able to provide this information a manual review and cross reference of other recording system is required. As this would involve the review of thousands of records, this would take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by the Freedom of Information Act.

In addition to the above, I would like to advise you that several of your questions engage the Section 12 refusal;

Workload and case handling;

This information is not held statistically, and as such, a search of the Crime Recording System for the collar number of an OIC would be required to determine how many cases have been allocated to the individual. A cross reference of HR systems is also required to determine details of the OIC such as their roles/rank.

A manual review of their caseload would then be required to identify the “types” of cases they have worked on at the same time.

Publically available Officer Names;

This information is not held statistically, therefore we would need to canvass all officers to identify the number of court cases they have been “involved” in, and also to determine if they have attended court within the timeframe referenced in your request.

Interpreters & language barriers;

Whilst there is a facility to record within a Person record if an interpreter is required for an individual, it is in the form of a yes/no tick-box and cannot be used to indicate that an interpreter has been engaged for any specific crime investigation. As this information is not held statistically, in order to determine if an interpreter has been utilised, a manual review of all crimes, cross referenced with Person records, would be required.

Please see below for suggestions on how you can 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.

By way of assistance, I confirm that the Constabulary could search its Crime Recording Database for the number of crimes recorded, providing a breakdown of Local Policing Area (LPA), offence name and Police outcome. Please be advised however, that this cannot be linked to arrests made.

We will also be able to search for any information held in answer to the following sections:

- Policies on Conflict of Interest or Favouritism
- Officer Experience and Case allocation

If this would be of use to you, you can submit a new request to foi@gloucestershire.police.uk

With regards to crime “hotspots”, there is some information within the public domain that can be accessed in response to this part of your request. Please click on the link below where you can view a Crime map.

<https://www.police.uk/pu/your-area/>

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