



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_24_1131
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 15/01/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_1131

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

Between the 15th of November and the 15th of December 2024, how many reports were received and logged by your Police Force concerning the use or sightings of Drones, UAVs and Unidentified Aircraft?

Please provide details, date, time, location, and, if possible, a copy of any log entries relating to sightings of Drones, UAVs, and unidentified aircraft and the outcome of any police enquiries between the above dates.

During the last 3 months of 2024, how many prosecutions and investigations have been undertaken by your police force into the use, sightings or reports of unidentified UAVs or drones or unidentified aircraft and the outcome of such investigations and prosecutions?

Does your police force provide any form of education or liaison with civilian drone operators, such as a drone safety course?

What training is provided to your police officers and staff in dealing with reports of drone or UAV use and potential offences or guidance? Could you please provide a copy of the information provided to your officers?

Does your force provide any specialist advice or information to the public and business community regarding drone mitigation? If so, please provide details.

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

Unfortunately, it's not possible to electronically search for the information you have requested for question 3.

In order to try and ascertain the total number of prosecutions or investigations involving sightings or reports of unidentified UAVs, drones or unidentified aircraft a search would have to be carried out on all crimes and incidents with the term 'drone' 'UAVs' and 'unidentified aircraft'. To retrieve the specific information you have requested would require a manual review of all such crime and incident records. This would clearly take longer than the 18 hours prescribed by the Freedom of Information Act.

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.

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.

1. A search was conducted on our incident recording system for incidents from 15.11.24 – 15.12.24 where the keywords of 'Drones', 'UAV's' and 'Unidentified Aircraft' has been recorded in the free text element of the incident. This returned 85 incidents. A review was completed of those incident and 0 were relevant to your request.

2. 0

3. Section 12 (explained above)

4. Gloucester Police Done Team do not provide course

5. Drone trained staff receive a legislation input on the following areas:

- <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/12/schedule/8>
- <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2016/765/article/94A>
- <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2016/765/article/239>
- <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2016/765/article/265B>

6. We do not provide any specialist advice or information to the public or business community.

Under Section 16 Duty to Assist

The information requested for Q3 maybe retrievable with a search of the crime recording system. However in order to do this you would need to provide us with specific offences which would aid our search for your request. Please refer to the below link to search all offences.

[Home Office Crime Recording Rules for frontline officers and staff - GOV.UK](#)

If this does assist with your request and you still require the information please re-submit a new FOI request.

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