



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_2023.1192

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 08/01/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.1192

On 13/12/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. Number of Livestock Worrying reports between 1st July 2022 to 30th June 2023 broken down month by month.
2. Number of Livestock Worrying reports that specifically relate to Sheep between 1st July 2022 to 30th June 2023 broken down month by month.
3. Number of offences which relate to A) No Injury Caused B) Injury/Damage Caused C) Death 4. Number of positive outcomes between 1st July 2022 to 30th June 2023 broken down month by month to include A) Court Disposal B) Community Resolution C) Caution D) Dog Behaviour Contract or E) Other Disposal

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

Unfortunately there is no central register for this information and no way to retrieve the information by way of electronic searches. There is no recording category on the Incident Recording database for livestock worrying. The only way of trying to determine whether any relevant information is held and to retrieve that information would be to search the Incident Recording database for all records where the terms "Dog", "Sheep" or "Livestock" are present within the text of the record, and then to manually review those results for relevance to your request. This would take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by the Freedom of Information Act.

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.

Under Section 16 – Duty to Assist, I can confirm that the Constabulary could search its Case database for the number of records where the offence has been recorded as “Owner of a dog worrying livestock” and/or “Person in charge of a dog worrying livestock”.

If you wish to submit a request on this basis, please let us know.

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