



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_25_0024
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 29/01/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0024

On 07/01/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. The number of children (17 and under) who were flagged as victims of Child Criminal Exploitation in relation to county lines drug dealing and separately, the number of these children who were recorded as being in care (looked-after child). If possible, with age, gender and ethnicity provided for each sets.
2. The number of children (17 and under) who were charged with drug supply offences related to county lines drug dealing and separately, the number of these children who were recorded as being in care (looked-after child). If possible, with age, gender and ethnicity provided for both sets.
3. Number of missing incidents of children (17 and under) who were missing from care with the following information provided:
 - Age
 - Gender
 - Ethnicity
 - Location reported missing from (local or out of force area)
 - Whether the child had been assigned a child criminal exploitation/county lines flag.
 - If possible, the type of care setting child was missing from.

Could I please have the above information for the following dates: between 1st January 2022 to 1st January 2025.

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

A search was completed on all substantiated crimes where the CCE (Child Criminal Exploitation) tag was present for the dates of 01.01.2022 – 01.01.2025.

This has returned over a 100 crimes. In order to answer Q1 & 2 a manual review would need to be completed to confirm if the child has any connections to county line drug dealing, be that as a victim or charged with an offence. We would also need to manually review the crimes to be able to confirm if the child in question has been recorded as being in care. This review would far exceed 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.

Section 16 – unable to assist

Regarding Q3, we could complete a search on missing children for the requested dates and the breakdown of information requested, however this would not be known until the request is raised with the appropriate area. This could still result in engaging section 12 if the information is not in an electronically retrievable format.

If this could assist you please 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