



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_24_0026

E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 04/02/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0026

On 08/01/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I have heard of a scam where scammers pose as potential buyers, visit a car in person, distract the seller and sabotage the car to ask for the car at a lower price. I have seen that Surrey Police have mentioned this as part of their April 2024 Newsletter:

<https://www.surrey.police.uk/police-forces/surrey-police/areas/campaigns/campaigns/2024/fraud-newsletter---april-2024-edition/>

Please may you provide me with:

- 1) Is the above type of scam something your force have seen reports of during 2024 (1st January 2024 - 31st December 2024)?
- 2) How many cases of this type of fraud were reported to your force, between:
 - a) 1st January 2024 - 30th June 2024
 - b) 1st July 2024 -31st December 2024(if you are not able to provide figures between this window, please provide 1 year stats for the 2024 year, or 1 year and the date range they apply for)
- 3) Therefore, have you seen an increase/decrease in this type of fraud in the year 2024 compared to the previous year? (1st January 2023 - 31st December 2023 vs 1st January 2024 - 31st December 2024)?
- 4) How many cases of motor fraud were reported to your force between:
 - a) 1st January 2024 - 30th June 2024
 - b) 1st July 2024 - 31st December 2024(if you are not able to provide figures between this window, please provide 1 year stats for the 2024 year, or 1 year and the date range they apply for)
- 5) Therefore, have you seen an increase/decrease in motor fraud in the year 2024 compared to the previous year? (1st January 2023 - 31st December 2023 vs 1st January 2024 - 31st December 2024)

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.

There is no specific offence relating to the above scenario and as such, trying to locate any relevant information would involve a manual review of records. This would involve manually reviewing incidents for the reports of such offences and also all Fraud offence crimes to ascertain if it related to the above scenario. It has been estimated that this would take longer than the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of 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:

- 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.

Unfortunately, I'm unable to assist in suggesting ways of refining your request to come within the confines of Section 12 of the Act. Even reducing the timescale would not reduce the number of records enough that a manual review could be conducted within the timescale but still provide meaningful information.

Under Section 16 Duty to Assist, I can confirm that most reports of Fraud are referred to the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau. Further details can be found on the Action Fraud Website via the following link:

[Who are the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau? | Action Fraud](#)

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