



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_0096

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 11/02/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0096

On 27/01/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

For the years 2022, 2023 and 2024, please can you tell me:

The TOTAL number of arrests for possession with intent to supply and supplying drugs. And the TOTAL number of arrests of under-18s for possession with intent to supply and supplying drugs.

Ideally, I wish for the LATTER to be broken down by year, age (i.e. 17, 16...), the type of drugs being confiscated and/or substance the suspect is accused of possessing with intent to supply and supplying (e.g. heroin, cannabis, etc.), and provided in a spreadsheet format.

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

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

The primary function of the Constabulary's Arrest Recording System is to assist the Constabulary in adhering to Code C of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. As such, its reporting function is limited. The system does not record detentions under specific offences under the Home Office Crime Recording Rules; instead it uses Reason for Arrest (RFA) Categories. Unfortunately the only RFAs relevant to your request are Drug Possession – Class A and Drug Supply – Class A, there isn't one relating to possession with intent to supply, which is a different offence. Although it's possible to follow an arrest through to a recorded crime and the police outcome per individual, it's not possible to retrieve electronic statistics. Therefore in order to ascertain the relevant arrest information you require, a manual review of over 1000 records would be required. This would clearly

take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of 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.

Under Section 16, duty to assist, I can confirm that the crime recording system can be searched for specific offences recorded under the Home Office Crime Recording Rules. As there are specific offences relating to several class A drugs, this would provide you with the number of crimes recorded, whether the offender was under 18 and the Police Outcome. (Please note, this will not confirm whether the offender was arrested).

If this would still be useful, please submit a new FOI request to foi@gloucestershire.police.uk

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