



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_0148

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 04/03/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0148

On 05/02/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding police responses to noise-related disturbances and out-of-control parties in residential areas.

Specifically, I would like to request the following data:

1. The total number of times officers were dispatched to residential properties in response to noise complaints in each of the following years: 2023, 2024 and 2025 (to date, if available).
2. The total number of incidents recorded under any of the following categories at residential addresses (or equivalent classification used by your force) in each of the same years:
 - "Noise Nuisance" (if recorded separately)
 - "Anti-Social Behaviour – Noise"
 - "Breach of the Peace" (related to residential properties)
 - "Public Order Offences" related to disorderly gatherings in residential properties
 - Any other category used to record responses to out-of-control parties in residential settings.
3. If possible, a breakdown of the top 10 residential postcodes or neighbourhoods within your jurisdiction where officers were dispatched most frequently for noise complaints or disorderly gatherings in each year.

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

When an Individual contacts the police and it's deemed to be a police matter, an incident will be created on the Incident Recording System. Please note that the word "incident" in Gloucestershire Constabulary's terminology refers to a type of record, not the event as a whole. If an offence is being reported (rather than a missing person for example) the "incident" will be assessed to determine if the offence falls within the Home Office Crime Recording Rules. If that incident is deemed to fall within the counting rules, a "crime" will be recorded on the Crime Recording System. Unfortunately, ASB does not fall under the Home Office crime recording rules and therefore any information will only be held within the Incident Recording System.

Please note that the Incident Recording System is largely a free text entry system and does not record information in as much detail as the Crime Recording System and therefore its reporting function is limited. I can confirm that whilst there are some recording tags that may be relevant to your request used within this system, they will not answer your enquiry in full. As such, a manual review of records will be required in order to determine if relevant information is held. As there are over 23,500 records for the period of your request, this would obviously take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by 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.

Section 16 – unable to assist

Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act provides the opportunity to assist the applicant with any suggestions or variation that may allow a search to be undertaken within the cost constraints of Section 12 of the Act.

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.

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