



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_0186

E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 12/03/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0186

On 13/02/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Please can I request under the Freedom of Information Act the following information recorded in your force area:

1a) Number of violent crimes recorded in schools in each calendar year (separately) from 2014 to 2024.

1b) Number of arrests for violent crimes recorded in schools in each calendar year (separately) from 2014 to 2024.

2a) Number of knife crimes recorded in schools in each calendar year (separately) from 2014 to 2024.

2b) Number of arrests for knife crimes recorded in schools in each calendar year (separately) from 2014 to 2024.

3a) Number of knife crimes with injury recorded in schools in each calendar year (separately) from 2014 to 2024.

3b) Number of arrests for knife crimes with injury recorded in schools in each calendar year (separately) from 2014 to 2024

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 information regarding the arrest parts of your request and no way to retrieve the information by way of electronic searches. This is because the Arrest Recording System's primary function is to assist the Constabulary in adhering to Code C of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. As such, the system does not record arrests as per the Home Office Crime Recording Rules but instead by Reason for Arrest (RFA) Categories and can therefore only search against those

specific codes. Whilst there are some codes that may be appropriate, there are no codes or markers to identify if an offence leading to an arrest took place in a school. The only way of trying to determine whether any relevant information is held, and to retrieve that information, would be to manually review each arrest in all possible arrest codes. This would involve the review of hundreds, if not thousands of records and would therefore 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.

Section 16 – Duty to Assist

By way of assistance I can confirm that the Constabulary could search its crime database for information in answer to questions 1a, 2a and 3a

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