



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_0220

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 18/03/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0220

On 21/02/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Please disclose how many times the force helicopter has been deployed since January 1 2023

For each incident, please disclose the time the request to deploy was received.

For each incident, please then also disclose the time the helicopter took off.

Additionally, please disclose the total annual maintenance bill for the force helicopter for the following calendar years (Jan 1 to Dec 31)

2022

2023

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 this information and no way to retrieve the information by way of electronic searches. Gloucestershire Constabulary does not own a Police helicopter. This is a resource that is utilised by a number of Forces. In order for Gloucestershire Constabulary to have assistance from the helicopter, a request must be submitted to the National Air Police Service. This would be recorded on the individual incident.

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. The only way of trying to determine whether any relevant information is held and to retrieve that information would be to manually review each incident. As this

would involve the review of hundreds of records it 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 – unable to assist

Unfortunately, I'm unable to assist in suggesting ways of refining your request to come within the confines of Section 12 of the Act. Although a keyword search for "NPAS" or "Helicopter" would reduce the number of results, it would not reduce the number of records enough that a manual review could be conducted within the timescale but still provide meaningful information. For clarity, a search for the term NPAS has been carried out and nearly 2,000 records were returned. A manual review of the results would still be required to determine the relevance to your 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