



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_0238

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 14/03/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0238

On 28/02/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I would like to know the following please under the Freedom of Information Act. How many arrests were made by your police force for the offence of hare coursing (the offence of trespassing with intent to pursue hares) over the last five years?

If you could send the data for each year please. So:

- Jan 2020 - Dec 2020
- Jan 2021 - Dec 2021
- Jan 2022 - Dec 2022
- Jan 2023 - Dec 2023
- Jan 2024 - Dec 2024

You clarified the following:

Yes, specific offences that have been recorded and whether anyone was charged works fine. Also, any numbers on callouts?

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 regarding numbers of callouts.

When a member of the public contacts the Police and it's deemed to be a police matter, an incident will be recorded on the Incident Recording System. If the matter is then deemed to fall within the Home Office Crime Recording Rules, an offence will be recorded on the Crime Recording System.

Information regarding whether the police attended a report of an alleged offence would be recorded on the Incident Recording System. Unfortunately there is no specific result code that relates to hare coursing. The only potentially relevant result code is Animals/Wildlife, of which 4827 incidents were recorded with this result code in the time period requested. It would clearly take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act to manually review this number of incidents to ascertain which may relate to hare coursing.

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.

Providing Information Outside of the Act

By way of assistance and although excess cost removes the Force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, we can provide the following the information relevant to your request which has already been retrieved. We trust this is helpful but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

Police Forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data. It should be noted that for these reasons the figures given relate to information from the specific recording system of Gloucestershire Constabulary and should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you receive.

Please note that our systems are designed to record information for policing purposes and the investigation of crime and not to extract statistical information. Accordingly whilst we endeavour to extract relevant data within the time limits of the Act, any data supplied is subject to these limitations.

I can confirm that the system has been searched for the number of charges recorded relating to the offence of PS22002 - Trespass with intent to search for or to pursue hares with dogs between 01/01/2020 and 31/12/2024.

The results were 3 x offences, all within the 2024 calendar year.

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