



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_25_0266

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 02/04/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0266

On 07/03/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. The number of PACE beds requested between January 2024 and December 2024, broken down by month.
2. The number of PACE beds provided between January 2024 and December 2024, broken down by month.

Clarification:

I am referring to Section 38 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 where accommodation should be found for children who are held in custody overnight.

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 all the information you have requested.

There is no central register of such information. In order to accurately retrieve this information, all custody records of children detained for the time period requested would need to be manually reviewed. As this would involve manually reviewing nearly 500 records, 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 it may be possible to extract just those detention logs whereby the detained child was remanded in custody and then manually review just those records to ascertain how many PACE beds were requested and subsequently how many were granted. Please note that this may still attract the exemption at Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act depending on the figures. If this might be a beneficial search, 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