



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_25_0278

E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 01/04/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0278

On 10/03/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Please can I ask the following in respect of 2023/24, 2022/23 and 2021/22.

1. How many patients reported suffering physical attacks while in hospitals in your force area over each of the last three years?
2. Please can you break down the figures, e.g. into assaults, indecent and sexual assaults.
3. How many arrests were made and charges brought against the assailants relating to these incidents.

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.

A search has been conducted of crimes recorded from 01/04/2021 to 31/03/2024 whereby the offence recorded fell under the Violence Against the Person Home Office Offence Class and the MO location code of Hospital was recorded. This resulted in 762 crime records for the time period requested.

Unfortunately, there is no specific field on the crime record that would denote whether the person reporting the offence was a patient at the hospital and as such, a manual review of all 762 crimes would be required to ascertain this information. This would clearly take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by 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, it would be possible to retrieve information regarding the specific offence and the police outcomes of the above crimes without whether they were reported specifically by patients. If this information would still be useful, 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