



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_0346

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 09/04/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0346

On 26/03/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

REQUEST 1:

What is the number of prostitution cases taken to court each year between 2014-2024 in Gloucestershire (in the last 10 years)?
(and with a breakdown of the specific charges)

REQUEST 2:

How many people have been arrested for soliciting sex work between 2014-2024 in Gloucestershire (in the last 10 years)?

REQUEST 3:

How many prostitute cautions were issued between 2014-2024 in Gloucestershire? (In the last 10 years)

REQUEST 4:

How many reports of violence/abuse against sex workers were filed each year between 2014-2024 in Gloucestershire (in the last 10 years)?

REQUEST 5:

Are there any problem profiles in relation to sex work or soliciting sex work?

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 s1, I can confirm that Gloucestershire Constabulary may hold some relevant information.

With regards to requests 2 & 4 section 12 of the FOI Act is engaged.

Request 2 –

Unfortunately there is no central register for this information and no way to retrieve the information by way of electronic searches. The Constabulary records arrests under

specific reason for arrest codes and can only search against the specific codes. There is no code for soliciting sex work and any arrest may fall within several categories including the generic categories of “other crime reportable” and “other crime non-reportable”. 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.

Request 4 –

Unfortunately there is no central register for this information and no way to retrieve the information by way of electronic searches.

When an Individual contacts the police and it is deemed to be a police matter, an incident will be created on the Incident Recording System. Please note that the word “incident” in Gloucestershire Constabulary's terminology refers to a type of record, not the event as a whole. If an offence is being reported (rather than a missing person for example) the “incident” will be assessed to determine if the offence falls within the Home Office Crime Recording Rules. If that incident is deemed to fall within the counting rules, a “crime” will be recorded on the Crime Recording System.

Please note that 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. There are no tags or markers within this system to refine the number of relevant records therefore 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 recorded within the timeframe specified. As the Constabulary records approximately 500 incidents per day, 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 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 of the Freedom of Information Act, provides the opportunity to assist the applicant with any suggestions or variation that may allow a search to be undertaken within the cost constraints of Section 12 of the Act.

I confirm that the Constabulary could provide the following:

If you remove requests 2 & 4 from your original request, we may be able to provide a response to the remaining questions.

If this would be of use to you, you can resubmit 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