



Your reference: N/A  
Our reference: FOI\_25\_0428  
E-mail: FOI  
@gloucestershire.police.uk  
Direct dial: 01452 754304  
Postal Address: As above  
Date: 14/05/2025

Dear

**Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI\_25\_0428**

On 15/04/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I would be grateful if you could provide me with the following information:

The number of reported incidents received by your police force from members of the public or your own officers that involve the following terms in their descriptions or classifications:

- Ghosts
- Demons
- Monsters
- Paranormal phenomena
- Supernatural entities
- Poltergeists
- Apparitions
- UFO's
- Aliens
- Other similar terms associated with paranormal or supernatural activity.

The time period I am requesting covers the past five years, from 1st January 2020 to 1st January 2025, broken down year by year.

Additionally, if available, please provide any information or estimates regarding the cost to the police force of responding to these incidents broken down year by year, either as individual call-outs or an average cost per type of report.

If the information is available in electronic format, I would prefer to receive it by email in an Excel spreadsheet format.

If for any reason this request exceeds the cost limit for FOI requests, please provide as much of the information as possible within the cost limit, focusing on the number of reports and their general descriptions.

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. 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 where the keywords requested are present in the recorded comments.

An initial search of the incident recording system for entries which contain the following Ghosts, Demons, Monsters, Paranormal phenomena, Supernatural entities, Poltergeists, Apparitions, UFO's and Aliens recorded between 01/01/2020 and 01/01/2025 has identified over 1,500 records that would need to be reviewed which would obviously 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.

### **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. Even reducing the timescale would not reduce the number of records enough that a manual review could be conducted within the timescale but still provide meaningful information.

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](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)

Post –

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer  
Gloucestershire Constabulary