



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_0451

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 22/05/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0451

On 25/04/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

- Please could you answer the below for the months of January, February and March 2025.

Please send me a log of all of the types of use of force one of your officers used - over these time periods - which fit into the "other/improvised" category on your use of force database. Examples of "other" use of force may include restraining detainees against walls, grappling detainees, punching detainees in the face i.e. any use of force that doesn't fit into your typical use of force categories will likely be included in the "other/improvised" category.

This was clarified with the following:

- I am writing in connection with my request about use of force sent yesterday.

The request clumsily referred to "types of use of force one of your officers used". This is not very clear. I want to clarify that I want the requested use of force information concerning all officers during the timeframe not just a random one. Please would you be so kind as to acknowledge receipt of this clarification so I know you have got it.

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

Whilst there is a recording category of "Tactic deployed – Improvised Other" there is no way to retrieve any breakdown the information by way of electronic searches. The only way to answer your request would be manually review all of the records where the "Improvised Other" category has been recorded. For the date range of your request, this

would involve reviewing over 850 records which would take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by the Freedom of Information Act.

You should therefore consider this to be a refusal notice under Section 17 of the Act

When applying Section 12 exemption our duty to assist under Section 16 of the Act would normally entail that we contact you to determine whether it is possible to refine the scope of your request to bring it within the cost limits. However, from the information we have outlined above I see no reasonable way in which we can do so.

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.

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