



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_25_0472
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_0472

On 02/05/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following data regarding firearms and shotgun certificate holders within the West Mercia Police area:

1. The number of valid Firearm Certificates (FAC) and Shotgun Certificates (SGC) currently held, broken down by postcode district (e.g., TF1, TF2, TF3, etc.) or local authority area (e.g., Telford and Wrekin).
2. If available, a breakdown of certificate holders by type of firearm held (e.g., smallbore rifle, fullbore rifle, shotgun, etc.)-aggregated where necessary to protect identities.
3. The number of registered firearm clubs within the West Mercia Police area.

Clarification was sought from you that you wanted the requested data for Gloucestershire, you confirmed you did.

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 the details requested in Q2 and parts of Q1. In order for this data to be provided a manual review of all shotgun and firearm certificates would be required. The number of certificates held is in excess of 10,000 and would therefore take far longer than the 18hrs prescribed by the Freedom of Information 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.

Providing Information Outside of the Act

By way of assistance and although excess cost removes the Force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, we have supplied the information relevant to your request which has already been retrieved. We trust this is helpful but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

Q1) We can confirm the total number of certificates held but are unable to break this down further by postcode.

Shotgun Certificates – 10,056
Firearm Certificates – 2,557

Q3) 19

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.

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