



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_0499

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 04/06/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0499

On 12/05/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I would like to clarify certain points and make some modifications to my original request.

In my original request, I asked:

- For the provision of your constabulary/force/service's total number of authorisations of incapacitant sprays for the years of 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 (as recently as possible)

- o For the provision of the type of incapacitant sprays that received authorisation for deployment in each of these years.

- For the provision of your constabulary/force/service's total number of authorisations for the deployment of tasers for the years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 (as recently as possible)

- o For the provision of the type of taser that received authorisation for deployment in these years (e.g., X26, X2, 7)

I am aware that you don't receive "authorisation" for these types of equipment, therefore, I would like to rephrase this request to:

- For the total number of deployments of incapacitant spray/tasers from January 2022 to as recently as possible in 2025

- o A breakdown of the circumstances of these deployments.

- o Further clarification: when I refer to "deployment", this includes a taser being drawn from its holster without being fired.

In my original request I also asked:

- For the provision of your constabulary/force/service's total number of authorisations for the deployment of baton rounds for the years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 (as recently as possible)

- o For a breakdown of the types of baton rounds that received authorisation for deployment in these years.

- For the provision of your constabulary/force/service's total number of authorisations for deployments of armed response units for the years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 (as recently as possible)
 - o For a breakdown of the types of firearms authorised for deployment in these years.
- I would like to modify this request to:
- For the provision of the total number of authorisations for the deployment of attenuating energy projectiles/armed response units from January 2022 to as recently as possible in 2025
 - o A breakdown of the reasons for why the authorisation was given in each instance.

Please acknowledge that you have received this message, and I hope that this serves to clarify any confusion or lack of clarity regarding my initial request.

Original Request

Dear FOI officer,

I am requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

- For the provision of your constabulary/force/service's total number of authorisations for the deployment of incapacitant sprays for the years of 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 (as recently as possible)
 - o For the provision of the type of incapacitant sprays that received authorisation for deployment in each of these years.
- For the provision of your constabulary/force/service's total number of authorisations for the deployment of tasers for the years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 (as recently as possible)
 - o For the provision of the type of taser that received authorisation for deployment in these years (e.g., X26, X2, 7)
- For the provision of your constabulary/force/service's total number of authorisations for the deployment of baton rounds for the years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 (as recently as possible)
 - o For a breakdown of the types of baton rounds that received authorisation for deployment in these years.
- For the provision of your constabulary/force/service's total number of authorisations for deployments of armed response units for the years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 (as recently as possible)
 - o For a breakdown of the types of firearms authorised for deployment in these years.

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.

In order to determine the circumstances of the deployment of incapacitant spray/tasers, a manual review of the Use of Force forms and any associated incident report would be required.

An initial search of the Use of Force recording system for completed forms recorded for the calendar year of 2024 and 2025 to date has identified over 850 records that would need to be reviewed. As the date range originally requested is longer, there are further

records that would also need to be reviewed which would obviously take far longer than the 18 hours 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.

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. As detailed above, 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

Post –

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

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer
Gloucestershire Constabulary