



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_25_0581
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 02/07/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0581

On 04/06/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 relating to the handling of stalking and harassment cases by your police force. This request focuses on potential misidentification of victims, the use and misuse of Community Resolutions, and the treatment of individuals with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

◆ Part 1 – Misidentification and Arrest of Victims

1. Between 2018 and 2024, how many individuals were:
 - Arrested on suspicion of stalking or harassment.
 - Later identified as the victim rather than the perpetrator.
2. Of those cases, please provide any available breakdown by:
 - Gender (with particular focus on women where misogyny may have played a role).
 - Sexual orientation (including cases involving homophobic abuse).
 - Disability or mental health conditions (e.g., bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, PTSD, autism spectrum, anxiety disorders).
 - Race/ethnicity.
 - Any recorded intersectional vulnerabilities, where multiple protected characteristics may be relevant.
3. Of those misidentified and arrested:
 - How many were detained in custody.
 - How many were released without charge.
 - How many resulted in no further action.

4. Are there any internal reviews, case audits, guidance, or training materials regarding:
 - Misidentification of victims in stalking/harassment or domestic abuse incidents.
 - Mistaken arrests involving individuals with protected characteristics.
 - Handling of cases involving vulnerable or marginalised individuals.

◆ Part 2 – Use and Misuse of Community Resolutions (CRs)

5. Between 2018 and 2024, how many Community Resolutions were issued for:
 - (a) Stalking.
 - (b) Harassment.
6. Of these, please specify how many involved individuals with the following protected characteristics:
 - Mental health conditions.
 - Disability.
 - Gender (female-identifying individuals).
 - Sexual orientation (including LGBTQ+).
 - Race/ethnicity.
7. In how many cases:
 - Was the alleged victim not informed of the CR before it was applied?
 - Was the CR applied without the victim's consent or knowledge?
 - Were individuals led to believe the CR constituted mutual agreement or offered protective benefit, when that was inaccurate?
8. Are there any internal reviews, complaint investigations, IOPC referrals, or safeguarding concerns documented about:
 - Inappropriate or non-consensual use of Community Resolutions.
 - Use of CRs in stalking or harassment cases involving vulnerable groups.
 - Misleading representations of CRs to victims or those misidentified as perpetrators.

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 Constabulary records arrests under specific reason for arrest codes and can only search against the specific codes. A preliminary search has been conducted for arrests which fall under the RFA of 'Harassment Section 4a Stalking and Fear' for the requested years. This has returned over 700 records. The only way of trying to determine whether any relevant information is held and to retrieve that information would be to manually review these records which would therefore take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by the Freedom of Information Act.

In addition, regarding part 2 of your request a manual review is also required to determine if relevant information is held, therefore this would also engage section 12 refusal.

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

Post –

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

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer
Gloucestershire Constabulary