



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_25_0590

E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 04/07/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0590

On 09/06/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. Please tell me the average number of crime report investigations held by Gloucestershire Constabulary Criminal Investigation Department detectives during the years January to December 2023 and January to December 2024, ie. did each detective carry, on average seven cases, 20 or 30 etc.
2. What is the Force policy, if there is one, regarding how many should be carried, on average.
3. If possible, please advise how this compares with other Forces, but I understand you may not hold that info re. other constabularies.

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

Unfortunately, it's not possible to electronically search for the information you have requested.

There is no central record of the number of investigations each Detective is working on at any given time.

The potential for this information to be retrieved using the available fields in the Crime Recording System has been reviewed, but unfortunately it's not possible due to the following:

In order to attempt to pull out information from the system regarding historical figures for the number of investigations held by certain officers would initially require all officers data to be retrieved. Then, the ability to search for those investigations that were open as at the relevant time span is required. Unfortunately, the way the system works is that when an investigation is closed, the status of the investigation is overridden. As such, it's not

possible to ascertain which crimes were allocated to each officer at a specific time period in the past.

If the information could be pulled from the system, the officers collar numbers would then need to be cross referenced to the HR system to ascertain just those that, at the time the investigation was being carried out, were Detectives specifically working in the Criminal Investigations Department.

As this cannot be done electronically, a manual review of thousands of crimes would need to be carried out in the time frame to ascertain the average case load of Detectives in CID. This would clearly take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of 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.

Under Section 16, duty to assist, I can confirm that although it's not possible to provide retrospective average case load figures for Detectives, it should be possible to provide a current (as at the date of a search) case load average per officer. If this would still be useful, please submit a new FOI Request to foi@gloucestershire.police.uk

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 can confirm the following 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.

I can confirm that there is no Local or National Policy on how many crimes should be carried by a Detective. The Constabulary does not hold information relating to other force caseloads carried by Detectives.

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