



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_25_0651
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 23/07/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0651

On 01/07/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am researching the effects of the Cheltenham Music Festivals, Cheltenham Science Festival, and Cheltenham Food & Drink Festival on the town of Cheltenham.

I would be grateful if you could provide information for the past five years (or most recent years available) regarding:

1. Crime and Public Safety
 - a. Number and types of crimes reported in Cheltenham during the periods of the three festivals (please specify dates if possible).
 - b. Any noticeable increases in crime compared to surrounding weeks.
 - c. Number of arrests made during each festival.
2. Policing and Operational Costs
 - a. The estimated cost of policing each of the three festivals (Music, Science, Food & Drink), per year.
 - b. Number of additional officers or shifts deployed specifically for these events.
3. Traffic and Congestion
 - a. Any available reports or data on traffic incidents, congestion, or road closures in Cheltenham during the festival periods.
 - b. Any coordinated traffic or crowd management measures involving the police.
4. Community Impact
 - a. Number or summary of complaints from members of the public to the police relating to these festivals (e.g. noise, antisocial behaviour, parking issues).

- b. Any available internal assessments, reviews, or public safety reports produced after the events.

If any of this information is held by another agency (e.g. Gloucestershire County Council), I would appreciate your guidance or redirection in accordance with Section 16 of the FOI Act (duty to provide advice and assistance).

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.

When a member of the public contacts the police and it's deemed to be a police matter, an Incident will be recorded on the Incident Recording System. If it's then deemed to fall within the Home Office Crime Recording Rules, a Crime will be recorded on the Crime Recording System.

As such, any complaints about any of the festivals mentioned above would be recorded on the Incident Recording System and any alleged offences would be recorded on the crime recording system. Unfortunately, neither system has any tags or categories relating specifically to any of the festivals. As such, in order to ascertain if any information recorded on either system specifically relates to the festivals stated, a manual review of all Incidents and Crimes recorded in the relevant time periods would be required.

This is likely to involve manually reviewing hundreds, if not thousands of records and would clearly take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

There is no central register of any traffic/crowd management measure that may have involved the Constabulary. Again it would take longer than the allotted 18 hours to retrieve any such relevant information by canvassing the Local Policing team for data held over the last 5 years.

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.

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.

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, I 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.

- The festivals are policed via normal policing duties and therefore no cost analysis has been conducted.
- Road closures and management would be authorised by Gloucestershire Highways. You can submit an FOI request to them via the following link:

[How do I submit my request? | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

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