



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_0662

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 15/07/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0662

On 03/07/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. How many traffic collisions have there been where nitrous oxide has been involved per year?
2. Please provide data separately for each year: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024. Please provide as much data for 2025 as possible closest to the current day. How many of those traffic collisions involving nitrous oxide have resulted in one or more fatalities? Please specify how many for each incident.
3. How many arrests have been recorded for the illegal sale of nitrous oxide from the start of 2019 to the 2nd of July 2025?

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 Incident Recording System only records injury RTC incidents, but there is no way to electronically extract the reason for the collision, therefore a manual review is required to determine if any relevant information is held. For the 12 month period of 03/07/2024 – 02/07/2025 there are over 6,000 records.

The primary function of the Constabulary's Arrest Recording System is to assist the Constabulary in adhering to Code C of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. As such, its reporting function is limited. The system does not record detentions under specific offences under the Home Office Crime Recording Rules; instead it uses Reason for Arrest (RFA) Categories. Unfortunately there are RFA Categories related specifically to Nitrous Oxide, therefore in order to ascertain if any relevant arrest information is recorded, a manual review of over 3,600 records would be required.

Both of these searches would clearly take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

You should therefore consider this to be a refusal notice under Section 17 of the Act for this part of your request.

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 – Duty to assist

Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act, provides the opportunity to assist the applicant with any suggestions or variation that may allow a search to be undertaken within the cost constraints of Section 12 of the Act.

I can confirm that a search of substantiated Crimes could be conducted to determine if information is held for Q2 only.

If this would be useful, you can resubmit the request omitting questions 1 & 3.

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