



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_25_0668
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 22/07/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0668

On 06/07/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am submitting a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am seeking data about domestic violence allegations involving migrant spouses and their British or settled partners.

Specifically, I would like to know:

1. Between 2015 and 2025, (or, if data over that period is not available, then for the last 5 years only) how many British citizens or individuals with settled status (Indefinite Leave to Remain) were:
 - * Arrested following an allegation of domestic violence,
 - * Made by their spouse or partner who had recently entered the UK on a spouse visa or family visa (i.e. someone they had sponsored to come to the UK)?
2. Of those arrests, how many cases were:
 - * Closed with "No Further Action" (NFA) by police or the Crown Prosecution Service?
3. Does your force record or flag cases where:
 - * The complainant (accuser) was on a spouse or family visa, and
 - * Later applied to remain in the UK under the Domestic Violence Concession (DV route)?

The reason for this request is because I have come across many cases in which British or settled sponsors were falsely accused of domestic violence, often shortly after their partner arrived in the UK. In these situations, it appears that the Domestic Violence Immigration Route is being misused by some individuals as a strategy to remain in the country.

I am trying to better understand how often such cases occur, and whether police forces are able to track this specific pattern - where a UK-based sponsor is arrested but no charges follow, while the accuser proceeds to seek immigration relief.

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

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 is no single RFA Category for Domestic Violence. Although it's possible to follow an arrest through to a recorded crime, where there are DA markers, and the police outcome per individual can be extracted, it's not possible to retrieve electronic statistics, therefore in order to ascertain if any relevant arrest information is recorded a manual review of thousands of records would be required.

A manual review would also need to be completed of all substantiated crime records where a tag for DA has been applied along with a review of all case records to identify and retrieve the person records of the victims in order to ascertain whether any information with regards to the victim holding a visa is held and what the status is.

The manual reviews as mentioned above would clearly take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of 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.

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