



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_25_0680
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 01/08/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0680

On 10/07/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am writing to update and clarify my request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The purpose of this request is to gather data on the number of emergency service callouts linked to sleep, fatigue or tiredness in the region.

Similar information has previously been released under the Freedom of Information Act: "Out of the 21 UK constituencies that responded to a Freedom of Information request, Thames Valley recorded the highest number of fatigue-related accidents over the three-year time period with nearly 400 accidents, while Surrey reported the highest number of fatalities."

Specifically, I am seeking anonymised data on the following:

The total number of incidents attended by your service where sleep, fatigue or driving while tired was recorded as a factor for each of the past five calendar years (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and partial data for 2025 if available)

Incidents could include, but are not limited to: Falling asleep while driving, road traffic collisions where driver fatigue was cited, etc

If there is no specific marker or code for "sleep" or "fatigue", I would be grateful if you could instead provide the number of incidents in which any relevant fatigue-related terms were noted in officer or incident logs-e.g., via keyword search for: "sleep", "fatigue", "tired", "exhaustion", "drowsy", etc.

If you are unable to provide the specified information:

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under the Section 16 obligations of the Act, as to how I can refine my request.

If you are unable to provide the specified information exactly as requested, please provide *any* data you have that is relevant to the request, e.g. 2024 only, and explain why the other information cannot be provided.

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

Police Forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data. It should be noted that for these reasons the figures given relate to information from the specific recording system of Gloucestershire Constabulary and should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you receive.

Please note that our systems are designed to record information for policing purposes and the investigation of crime and not to extract statistical information. Accordingly whilst we endeavour to extract relevant data within the time limits of the Act, any data supplied is subject to these limitations.

Unfortunately there is no marker or tag within the Incident Recording System for incidents which have involved fatigue or sleep issues. To try and provide relevant data a search was completed on the incident system for the requested timescales for all records where the following terms are present

Sleep

Fatigue

Tired

Exhaustion

Drowsy

This returned over 21,500 records. The only way of trying to determine whether any relevant information is held and to retrieve that information would be to manually review each of these incidents. Due to the number this would take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by 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.

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