



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_0717

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 19/08/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0717

On 22/07/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Please would you let me know regarding allegations of crimes conducted against birds of prey in each of the last three years

- 1) the total number of allegations made to your force
- 2) how many you opened an investigation into
- 3) how many you referred to the CPS and
- 4) how many resulted in a criminal conviction.

If known, please would you for each category record the total number of incidents where the accused were gamekeepers across all three years

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.

When an Individual contacts the police and it is deemed to be a police matter, an incident will be created on the Incident Recording System. Please note that the word "incident" in Gloucestershire Constabulary's terminology refers to a type of record, not the event as a whole. If an offence is being reported (rather than a missing person for example) the "incident" will be assessed to determine if the offence falls within the Home Office Crime Recording Rules. If that incident is deemed to fall within the counting rules, a "crime" will be recorded on the Crime Recording System.

The Incident Recording System is largely a free text entry system and does not record information in as much detail as the Crime Recording System and therefore its reporting

function is limited. I can confirm that whilst there are some recording tags that may be relevant to your request used within this system, they will not identify all relevant records and therefore will not answer your enquiry in full. Further to this, information regarding whether a crime has subsequently been referred to the CPS and the outcome, such as charge, are not recorded within the Incident Recording System, but on the Crime Recording System. As such, a manual review and cross reference of records will be required in order to determine if relevant information is held. It has been estimated that this part of the request would far exceed the permitted time constraints, therefore Section 12 of the Act is applicable. This section does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimated that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit of 18 hours, equating to £450.00.

You should 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 – unable to assist

Under Section 16 of the Act, unfortunately I'm unable to provide any advice for how you could refine your request to come within the cost constraints of Section 12. Even if you reduce the time period, it's unlikely to reduce the number of records enough to make a manual review possible.

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