



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_0724

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 18/08/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0724

On 18/08/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I would like to find out the number of crimes reported on canals and navigable rivers (and their banks/towpaths) in your jurisdiction, please, broken down by year over the past five years. If you record this by calendar year, that would be 2019-2024, if it is by financial year then 2020/21 to 2024/25 please.

If possible, I would also like to know the breakdown of these crimes by type, if it doesn't mean too much work and invalidating this request.

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. If that incident is deemed to fall within the Home Office Crime Recording Rules, a crime will be recorded on the Crime Recording System. Please note that 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.

The only way of trying to determine whether any relevant information is held and to retrieve that information would be to manually review each incident where the terms "canal" and/or "river" appear anywhere within the text of the report.

For the date range stated within your request, there are over 181,700 records that would need to be manually reviewed which would obviously 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

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 crimes 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