



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_0779

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 03/09/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0779

On 06/08/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

The Campaign for Racial Justice in Suicide Prevention is writing to request information on the following:

- a) The number of suspected suicides and attempted suicides by ethnicity for the period 2000-2025.
- b) A copy of the ethnicity dataset/codes used in such data recording.

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

When a member of the public calls the police and it is deemed to be a police matter, an incident is recorded. If the reason for the call falls within the Home Office counting rules it is then recorded as a crime 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.

Gloucestershire Constabulary's Incident Recording System uses opening and closing codes to record the reason for the call to police. The system does not, however, have an opening or closing code that denotes an incident was a suicide. The only way this can be recorded is by using the opening and closing codes for "sudden death". A manual review of these records is then required to determine if it is being reported that an individual has taken their own life.

An initial search of incident records has been conducted for the latest 12 month period – 01/09/2024 – 31/08/2025 – to identify the number that would require a manual review; the search has returned 963 records. A review of this reduced date range would take longer than the 18 hours prescribed by the Freedom of Information Act, therefore a review of records for the whole of your requested date range would far exceed this also.

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

When applying the Section 12 refusal, our duty to assist under Section 16 of the Act would normally entail that we contact you to determine whether it is possible to refine the scope of your request to bring it within the cost limits. However, from the information we have outlined above I see no reasonable way in which we can do so.

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.

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