

Gloucestershire Constabulary
Police Headquarters
No.1 Waterwells, Waterwells Drive
Quedgeley, Gloucester. GL2 2AN
www.gloucestershire.police.uk



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_26_0275

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 15/04/26

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_26_0275

On 11/03/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. The number of arrests made at Cheltenham Festival from 2022-2026.
2. The number of police in attendance at Cheltenham Festival each year from 2022-2026.
3. The cost of policing the Cheltenham Festival every year from 2022-2026.

Please could I have the information broken down by each individual year starting in 2022 and ending in 2026.

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

Following a search of the Constabulary's authorised detentions that took place within the following date ranges: 15 - 18 March 2022, 14 - 17 March 2023, 12 - 15 March 2024 & 11 - 14 March 2025, filtered for results where 'Cheltenham Festival' or 'Cheltenham Races' is referenced in the arrest location, 0 results were returned.

Conducting a further search of all detentions in the time periods specified returned over 370 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 record. This would involve the review of hundreds of records and would therefore take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by the Freedom of Information Act, 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

Please see below for suggestions on how you may be able to refine your request to come within the cost constraints of Section 12 of the 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. In addition, we felt it important to inform you that the information you requested in part 2 (number of police) will have been exempt under section 31 of the Act. Without parts 1 and 2, it was felt that part 3 (policing costs) would not be required, however, if you would like this information, please contact us at your convenience.

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