



Dear Mr Ford,

**Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2017.0342**

On the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2017 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

This request relates to the following offences set out in the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971:

- i. Possession of Cannabis - s.5(1) of the Act; ii. Possession of Cannabis with intent to supply - s.5(3) of the Act.

1. For each of these two offences separately, please supply the following data broken down by each year a) 2004, b) 2005, c) 2006, d) 2007, e) 2008 and f) 2009 g) 2015 h) 2016:

- a) The total number of individuals arrested by your force
- b) The total number of individuals cautioned by your force
- c) The total number of individuals charged by your force

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

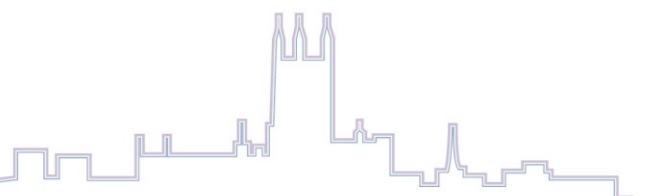
Unfortunately there is no central register for all of this information and no way of conducting electronic searches to determine whether any information is held and to retrieve that information. The Constabulary records arrests under specific "reasons for arrest" and can only search against those reason codes. Whilst there are reasons for arrest which relate to drugs offences, there is no separate reason for arrest code for cannabis and the drug is not specified in the reason for arrest. Furthermore we cannot link arrests to crimes and are unable to provide outcomes resulting from arrests. No correlation can be made between the number of arrests and the number of recorded crimes or their outcomes. For example, an offender may be arrested for handling stolen goods but on investigation, they may be charged with burglary and other offences. The crime recorded will therefore be different to the reason for arrest. The only way of trying to determine whether any information is held would be to conduct a manual review of all arrests in relevant arrest categories for the time period of your request. This would involve the review of thousands of records and would therefore 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.

By way of assistance I can confirm that if you wish to submit a request based upon crime data, we should be able to provide some information in relation to the number of recorded crimes for these offences together with the policing outcome such as caution/ charged.

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.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Steedman  
Disclosure Officer  
Gloucestershire Constabulary