



Dear Emilia Pearson,

**Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0421**

On 17/04/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I write to request information under the Freedom of Information Act about recording the ethnicity of drivers stopped by your police force. For clarity, I am not looking for statistics concerning stop and searches. I am only interested in traffic stops.

Specifically, I would like to know:

Has your force run any pilot schemes between 2015 and 2022 where officers were required to record drivers' ethnicity during a traffic stop?

For reference, such a scheme was piloted by the Metropolitan Police in 2022

If your force ran such a scheme, please provide the information collected, of drivers stopped broken down by ethnicity. Please provide this information in Excel format.

If such a scheme has not been run, please provide any ethnic breakdown of drivers stopped by your force between 2015 and 2022. Please provide this information in Excel format.

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

Unfortunately there is no way of electronically searching for the information you have requested.

The Constabulary has not run any pilot schemes in the above time period to record driver's ethnicity during a traffic stop.

Unfortunately, the only information relating to the ethnicity of drivers that is recorded is if such a stop goes on to become a search of the vehicle and/or persons within it or to report the driver or other occupants for any offences.

However, depending on the offences in question depends on which system the information would be held. As such, there is no way of searching all relevant systems for all potentially relevant offences within the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of 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.

Unfortunately, I'm unable to assist in suggesting ways of refining your request to come within the confines of Section 12 of the Act. Even reducing the timescale would not reduce the number of records enough that a manual review could be conducted within the timescale but still provide meaningful information.

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 G Macpherson  
Disclosure Officer  
Gloucestershire Constabulary