

19th July 2018

Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20181007

REQUEST

1. ***How many murders have there been each year, since 1970?***
2. ***How many unsolved murders do you have on your records (dating back as far as possible)?***
3. ***In regards to the unsolved homicides, please could you provide:***
 1. ***Their name,***
 2. ***Age,***
 3. ***Gender,***
 4. ***Ethnicity***
 5. ***Address/postcode,***
 6. ***Occupation (if known)***
 7. ***Date of incident,***
 8. ***Cause of death,***
 9. ***Reason why it has gone unsolved,***
 10. ***Whether anyone was tried for the incident but acquitted/found not guilty***
 11. ***How long the case has been cold for? (I.e. when was it passed to the major review team?)***
4. ***Do you have a major crime review team, or a specific cold-case investigation team?***
5. ***How many staff are on these teams/units?***
6. ***What is your policy in relation to reviewing unsolved murders?***

CLARIFICATION

All such requests and responses are published on the Force Disclosure Log....we would draw your attention to the following entry: -

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/accessing-information/request-information-under-the-freedom-of-information-act/undetected-murders-ref-20170562/>

REPLY FROM THE REQUESTOR

Please see my refined request below.

1. ***How many murders have there been each year, since 1970?***
2. ***In regards to the unsolved homicides, please could you provide:***
 1. ***Ethnicity***
 2. ***Occupation (if known)***
 3. ***Date of incident,***
 4. ***Cause of death,***
 5. ***Reason why it has gone unsolved,***
 6. ***Whether anyone was tried for the incident but acquitted/found not guilty***
 7. ***How long the case has been cold for? (I.e. when was it passed to the major review team?)***
 1. ***Please note, I have access to the disclosure for REF20170562 and would only require the above information to supplement the already-obtained information.***
3. ***Do you have a major crime review team, or a specific cold-case investigation team?***
4. ***How many staff are on these teams/units?***

5. What is your policy in relation to reviewing unsolved murders?

RESPONSE

Q1 –

I approached our Crime Management Data Returns Administrator for assistance with your request. The CMS system and Connect System is used to record complaints or allegations of those matters, which the Home Office specify should be recorded as 'crimes'.

He conducted a search of the two crime management systems. (CMS - our legacy system which provides data up to 4th December 2017 and our new CONNECT system which records crimes from that date onwards)

He provided me with the enclosed spreadsheet and the following explanation of his search criteria:

We only have access to CMS records from 1995 onwards, and do not have access to the CMS archive. The data in the attached return is only from 1995 to 2018 (May).

I have provided the volumes for the full HO group 'Homicide' of which murder is part. I have split the volumes down into the subsections including murder by calendar year from 1995 to 2018 (up to May).

Note – the manslaughter volumes in 2016 are higher due to the 96 victims from Hillsborough being recorded in this year on CMS.

CMS – HO Class Code equalling '1', '4.1', '4.2' and '4.10'.

CONNECT – HO Sub Group name equalling Homicide and the HO Sub Sub Group name to differentiate between murder and corporate manslaughter.

Q2 –

As advised in the Clarification Email.

Q3, 4 & 5 –

I approached the Manager of the Major Incident Review Team for assistance with your request, he was able to supply the below.

Q3 – Yes

Q4 – 11

Q5 –

All undetected homicides are subject to periodic reviews and they have been assessed in order to prioritise where possible advances may be made. This could be through forensic or additional evidential information. A matrix has been utilised to assess each investigation against a set criteria.