

19th January 2021

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20202667

REQUEST

1 a) From 01/01/2016 to 01/12/20, how many domestic homicide offences, where a woman was killed by her current or former male partner, have been recorded by your police force?

1 b) In each of these domestic homicide offences, how many victims were flagged with a domestic violence marker associated with:

- their name**
- and/or address**
- and/or telephone number**
- current or former male partner**

2 a) From 01/01/2016 to 01/12/20, how many women whose deaths were reported to your police force as sudden and unexplained had a police record of domestic abuse associated with:

- their name**
- and/or address**
- and/or telephone number**
- current or former male partner**

2 b) Of those deaths, how many were investigated as possible homicides?

2 c) Of those which were investigated as possible homicides, how many arrests were made of the woman's current or former male partner?

2 d) Of those partners or former partners who were arrested, how many were subsequently charged with her murder?

2 e) How many were charged with her manslaughter?

2 f) How many were charged with a violent offence or coercive control in relation to

that victim following her death?

3) From 01/12/2010 to 01/12/20, how many women in your police force area who are flagged on your computer system with a domestic abuse marker are currently missing?

Clarification request

I have approached a Performance Review Officer for assistance with Question 3 of your request. With the Missing Persons System, they cannot retrieve information in the format you are requesting. They have asked:-

Would the requestor want where details are for victim or suspect?

We do not flag victims/suspects with markers for Domestic Abuse. Can you clarify if the requestor would be happy for where the victim has been assessed as vulnerable due to Domestic Abuse or if where they are a victim/suspect on a domestic abuse crime?

With the current MISPER system we can only look at who is currently missing at the time we log on. This can change within seconds if a new records is added and/or current MISPER is found. So we could see records on CONNECT for 01/12/20 and then look if these were on the missing system at time of completing the request.

Reply to Clarification

Please find my answers to your questions below:

By victim, do you mean the missing person? If so then yes, I would like this information where details are for the victim.

As you do not flag victims of Domestic Abuse, please can you provide the information where the victim has been

assessed as vulnerable due to Domestic Abuse or where they are a victim on a domestic abuse crime?

I am also happy for you to proceed with your approach, i.e. for you to see records on CONNECT for 01/12/20 and then look if these were on the missing system at time of completing the request.

RESPONSE

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires South Yorkshire Police, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt), to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- a. states that fact,
- b. specifies the exemption in question and

c. states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The following exemption applies to the disclosure of the information:

Section 12 – Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

Our Crime Administrator has advised that with regards to question 2 they cannot provide this data, they can only provide details of offences that are recorded for CONNECT Crime. In order to try and assist you with this part of your request, I approached our Communications Analyst to see if they were able to provide incidents reported to us that may have a tag.

The Smart Storm system records the majority of calls to South Yorkshire Police requiring the specific deployment of police resources, whether reported by members of the public via 999 or 101 or 'happened upon' by officers and staff in the course of their duties. The log runs as a running commentary of an incident as it unfolds and has limited search capability.

The Analyst has advised that since moving to our new system STORM in November 2018 there have been 4867 incidents closed as sudden death. In order to ascertain if any of those incidents were women and had a record domestic abuse associated with the 4 items listed all of the incidents would need to be read and I believe other Police systems would need to be interrogated as the incident would possibly not give the details the requester is asking for.

In essence, we would need to manually review these 4867 incidents on the new system, and then the same on our old system prior to November 2018, to see if they were relevant to your request, and then cross reference with our Crime Management systems to review the outcomes. If reviewing just the incidents on our Smart Storm system took a very conservative 1 minute per incident, this process would also take much longer than 18 hours' work as guided under the FOI Act.

The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 provide that the cost limit for non-central government public authorities is £450. This must be calculated at the rate of £25 per hour, providing an effective time limit of 18 hours.

Guidance from the Information Commissioner to public authorities is that where one part of a request is reasonably estimated to exceed the appropriate limit then the authority is not obliged to consider or comply with the remainder of the request up to the point at which the appropriate limit has been reached. Please note point 30 of the below link:-

https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1199/costs_of_compliance_exceeds_appropriate_limit.pdf

Although excess cost removes the force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request neither does it bind South Yorkshire Police to any commitment that it will release information in such a manner in the future .

Q1. Our Crimes Administrator has provided the following explanation of her search, and attached Spreadsheet:-

I have provided a count of offences recorded under the Home Office Offence Class Homicide where the offence was recorded between 04-Dec-2017 and 31-Dec-2020, where the victim is Female and the offence has been recorded with a Domestic Keyword.

CMS(II) -

I have provided a count of offences recorded under the Home Office Offence Class Homicide where the offence was recorded between 01-Jan-2010 and 04-Dec-2017, where the victim is Female and where the offence has been recorded with a Domestic Flag.

Q3. Our PVP Performance Review Officer has provided the following:-

I have extracted all female victims of Domestic Abuse that were recorded on CONNECT on 01/12/2020 for crimes and non-crimes (have one of the 3 Domestic keywords and/or NC/11 domestic non crime). There was a total of 67 investigations (41 crime and 26 non-crime). I have then looked at the current list of Missing Persons recorded on the system as at today (30/12/20 – 09:59) and I have also extracted the list of female Missing person that were recorded on our MISPER system on the 01/12/2020.

No matches on name and dob variation were found with both extractions.

Therefore no Domestic abuse female victims recorded on our CONNECT system on 01/12/2020 have been recorded as missing either on 01/12/2020 or as at time of completing the request 30/12/20 @09:59.