

13th October 2021

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20211413

REQUEST

1. Could you please advise on the number of crimes categorised as honour-based abuse which the constabulary dealt with in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020?

2. Could you give a breakdown of the offences (including physical assault, abduction, rape and murder) which were categorised as honour-based abuse during 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020?

3. Could you please advise on the number of crimes categorised as 'coercive control offences' which the constabulary dealt with in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020?

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 exemptions applies to the disclosure of the information:

Section 40(2) Personal Information

This is an absolute exemption and therefore a Public Interest Test is not relevant. However, for clarity, I will explain my rationale for engaging this exemption. Section 40(2) provides that information is exempt if it is the personal data of someone other than the applicant and disclosure would breach any of the data protection principles. The term 'personal data' means data that relates to a living individual who can be identified. Although not explicitly naming individuals, the effect of a disclosure of offence title by year may lead to the identification of those involved in the incident; not only the person(s) subject of the complaint, but potentially the person(s) making the complaint.

Section 31 (1) (a) (b) Law Enforcement states that information is exempt information if its disclosure under the Act would, or would likely to prejudice:

HARM

It is important to stress that when a disclosure is made under the Freedom of Information Act, it is a disclosure to the world and not to a single individual. In view of this, we may publish information released under the Freedom of Information Act on our website in order that any member of the public who may wish to view the information can have access to it.

Disclosure of all the information that South Yorkshire Police may hold could compromise the force and jeopardise the work done within communities to increase the public's confidence in reporting and giving assistance to the Force on this subject. This could lead to more crimes

being committed which would place individuals at risk – including those reporting incidents, victims, witnesses etc., who may be ‘recognised’ or indeed, mis-identified by a disclosure.

Public Interest Test

Considerations favouring disclosure

- A full release of information would show that SYP is proactive in all areas of policing and investigation.
- Disclosure would demonstrate SYPs commitment to transparency and openness

Considerations favouring non-disclosure

- Police resources and the Force’s ability to operate effectively and efficiently, would be affected as this information could be used by those with a criminal intent.
- More crime would be committed by those intent on committing offences which would impact of the force and the safety of members of the public.

I have carefully considered your request for information. The key test when considering the public interest is to establish whether in all the circumstances of the request the public interest in disclosing information is not outweighed by that in maintaining the exemption or exemptions.

The Police Service is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. Although I am fully aware of the need for Public Authorities to demonstrate a level of openness and transparency, I am of the opinion that the full release of the information requested would trigger the above exemption. South Yorkshire Police cannot risk compromising the ability of Officers to effectively carry out law enforcement and protect the public from those engaged in criminal activity.

With this in mind, I am prepared to disclose a count of figures for questions 1 and 3, but no further details in respect of question 2 to ensure that the above exemptions are not triggered.

Q1 and Q2 - So-called Honour-based Abuse

Data based on SYP's ADR 708 Submission, which is provided to the Home Office by Financial Year

Collection of these data commenced in 2018, so no data are available for 2016 and 2017

<i>2018/19</i>	<i>Crimes</i>
Total	43

<i>2019/20</i>	<i>Crimes</i>
Total	47

<i>2020/21</i>	<i>Crimes</i>
Total	60

Q3 Controlling or Coercive Behaviour

Year	Crimes
<i>2016</i>	51
<i>2017</i>	119

<i>2018</i>	326
<i>2019</i>	613
<i>2020</i>	988