

13 August 2024

FOI Ref 16831

Request - You asked us the following:

Can you please provide the following information for your Police Authority;

- (1) The number of crimes recorded as 'Domestic Abuse' broken down by the Gender of the Victim.
- (2) The number of incidents (not registered as crimes) recorded as 'Domestic Abuse' broken down by the Gender of the Victim.

We understand that gender may be recorded on your systems as Male, Female or Unknown/Other, and that level of information is fine.

If you can only provide one answer because of your collection method, then that this is acceptable however can you please confirm if you are providing crimes or incidents.

This request is to cover the period from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

We received your request on 30/04/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Please find below our response.

In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for this particular request.

Staffordshire Police discloses/withholds the following information.

- 1. The number of crimes recorded as 'Domestic Abuse' broken down by the Gender of the Victim.
- 2. The number of incidents (not registered as crimes) recorded as 'Domestic Abuse' broken down by the Gender of the Victim.

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

There is no method by which we can easily retrieve information from our systems to answer part 2 of this request. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 8500 incidents which have a call type description of 'Domestic Incident' and where a gender has not been initially recorded upon first reporting of the incident. A manual research of each incident where a gender has not initially been recorded would therefore be required and the data manually extracted and correlated. To extract this data would therefore require a very labour-intensive manual trawl through each record.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 3 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 425 hours. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the FOI Act by some considerable margin.

The following exemptions have been applied:

- **Section 12(1) where the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit.**
Section 12(1) 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 prescribed limit'.

Advice and assistance

Section 16 of the Act places an obligation upon the Authority to provide advice and assistance, in order to comply with this obligation please see below.

In order to assist in refining your request, should you retract question 2. Data could be provided for question 1. However, further exemptions may apply.

Next steps

You can ask us to review our response.

If you would like us to carry out a review of our response, please let us know within two months of the date of receipt of this email, review requests should be addressed to:

foi@staffordshire.police.uk

Or by Post to:

Central Disclosure Unit
Staffordshire Police HQ
PO Box 3167
Stafford
ST16 9JZ

Please remember to quote the reference number in any future communications.

Freedom of Information
Central Disclosure Unit