

5 December 2024

FOI Ref 17485

Request - You asked us the following:

This is a request for information according to the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

It relates to domestic homicides, where the victim was known to the police.

Please note there are three parts to my request, although parts one and two contain multiple sub-questions.

I have attached a spreadsheet to support you in your response.

1 a) From 01/01/2019 to 19/11/24, 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

1 c) of those deaths, how many were investigated as possible homicides?

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

1 e) of those partners or former partners who were arrested, how many were subsequently charged with her murder?

1 f) How many were charged with her manslaughter?

1 g) How many were charged with a violent offence or coercive control in relation to that victim following her death?

2 a) From 01/01/2019 to 19/11/24, 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?



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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 a) From 01/01/2019 to 19/11/24, how many police officers in your force have been arrested following an allegation of domestic violence?

3 b) How many were subsequently charged?

We received your request on 19/11/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Staffordshire Police's response to your enquiry is as follows:

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

The following exemption has 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'.

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

For the given time period, in order to answer questions 1b through to 1g, this would entail manually trawling through hundreds of documents to determine the answers which would equate to approximately 225 hours. Furthermore, in order to provide data for questions 2a to 2f, we would need to review each sudden death. For the requested time period, there were 11,795 sudden death incidents that would need to be manually reviewed to determine whether any involved an individual with a prior record of Domestic Abuse. 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 4 minutes to review each record to answer the questions 2a and 2f equating to 786 hours and an estimated time of 225 hours to answer questions 1b to 1g, this would equate to over 1011 hours in total. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the FOI Act by some considerable margin.

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, data can be provided for questions 1a, 3a and 3b. However, please note further exemptions may apply.

Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure

1. Who Can Ask for a Review

Any person who has requested information from Staffordshire Police, which has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act, is entitled to complain and request an internal review, if they are dissatisfied with the response they received.

2. How to Request a Review

Requests for review of a Freedom of Information request must be made in writing within two months of the date of receipt of this email, and should be addressed to:

foi@staffordshire.police.uk

Or by Post to:

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

The reference number, date of the request and details of why the review is being requested must be included. Requests for review should be brought to the attention of the Central Disclosure Unit within two months of the Force's response to the original FOI request.

3. Review Procedure

Receipt of a request for review will be acknowledged in writing. The review will be conducted by another Decision Maker who is independent from the original Decision Maker. The Central Disclosure Unit will set a target date for a response. The response will be made as soon as is practicable with the intention to complete the review within 20 working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to 40 working days.

The independent Decision Maker will conduct a review of the handling of the request for information and of decisions taken, including decisions taken about where the public interest lies in respect of exempt information where applicable. The review enables a re-evaluation of the case, taking into account the matters raised by the complaint.

4. Conclusion of the Appeal

On completion of the review the Independent Decision maker will reply to the complainant with the result of the review. If the complainant is still dissatisfied following the review they should contact the Information Commissioner to make an appeal. The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following details:

Information Commissioner's Office



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Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

ICO Website for complaints link: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Freedom of Information
Central Disclosure Unit