

4th June 2018

Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20180798

REQUEST

Please kindly provide me under the FOI act:

All the cases dealt with (or still being dealt with) by your Professional Standards Department of domestic abuse allegedly perpetrated by police officers, PCSOs and other police staff employed by your own force.

I would like this information for the last three years up to and including the present day (2nd May), broken down by year.

For each case please tell me:

- 1. The type/category e.g. conduct, complaint***
- 2. The type of employee e.g. officer, PCSO, other staff***
- 3. The specific behaviour or offences alleged (please ignore 3 if you can't give this information)***
- 4. The outcome e.g. no case to answer/the type of discipline or sanction (e.g. dismissed without notice, management advice etc)/the outcome of criminal proceedings (e.g. convicted, trial ongoing)***
- 5. Whether the case was referred to the IOPC (formerly the IPCC)***

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(2) – Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

The Performance Development Team Leader within Professional Standard has advised the following:

I am not sure how easy this information is going to be to find. We have in the past housed alleged domestic abuse related incidents as a Miscellaneous File unless it goes into something more serious then it would be a conduct matter.

If it has been housed as a miscellaneous we do not have a particular heading to be able to locate the case it would be just a "Misc". There are 948 MISC cases between the dates given.

In order to identify any relevant information in relation to your request therefore, we would have to manually review each of the 'Miscellaneous' records to ascertain whether any of them meet the criteria of your request. This would exceed far exceed the cost threshold.

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. . If you feel your endeavours can be achieved within the appropriate limit by refining your request, South Yorkshire Police would be more than happy to consider any further request.

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, I have supplied information relating to your request as a gesture of goodwill. 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.

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'.

The Data Returns Officer 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)

She provided the raw data from which the table below has been created together with following explanation of her search criteria:

CMS data –

I have provided a single record level data where the offence has been recorded on the CMS(ii) 01 crime register or 04 Domestic Incident register between 01-Apr-2015 and 04-Dec-2017 where the offender's occupation at the time the offence was committed is within the Occupation group - HOME OFFICE POLICE FORCE. Each offence would need to be reviewed to establish if relevant to the request.

CONNECT data -

I have provided a single record level data where the offence has been recorded CONNECT between 05-Dec-2017 and 12-Apr-2018 where the suspect's occupation is Occupation Level 1 - Emergency Services and Occupation level 2 - Police Service. Each offence would need to be reviewed to establish if relevant to the request.

YEAR	Total
2015	8
2016	12
2017	11
2018	2

The following link may also be of interest to you:

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/about-us/our-standards/misconduct-hearing-findings/>