

26th April 2019

Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20190741

REQUEST

- 1. For the full year of 2018 (01/01/2018 - 31/12/2018) in total how many incidents and crimes did your police force record of:
a)"honour" based violence?
b) forced marriage?
c) female genital mutilation?**
- 2. If your police force records any of/ all of a)-c) together, for the full year of 2018 (01/01/2018 - 31/12/2018) in total how many incidents and crimes of "honour" based violence, forced marriage and female genital mutilation combined did your police force record?**
- 3. For the full year of 2018 (01/01/2018 - 31/12/2018) in how many cases were criminal charges pressed which involved:
a)"honour" based violence?
b) forced marriage?
c) female genital mutilation?**
- 4. If your police force records any of/ all of a)-c) together, for the full year of 2018 (01/01/2018 - 31/12/2018) in how many cases of "honour" based violence, forced marriage and female genital mutilation were criminal charges pressed?**
- 5. For the full year of 2018 (01/01/2018 - 31/12/2018) how many cases resulted in convictions involving:
a)"honour" based violence?
b) forced marriage?
c) female genital mutilation?**
- 6.If your police force records any of/ all of a)-c) together, for the full year of 2018 (01/01/2018 - 31/12/2018) in how many cases involving "honour" based violence, forced marriage and female genital mutilation were there convictions?**
- 7. For the full year of 2018 (01/01/2018 - 31/12/2018) how many murder cases involving "honour" based violence did your police force record?**

RESPONSE

I approached our Performance & Governance department for assistance with your request. They provided all the information requested which, on review, I am unable to provide you in full.

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

- a) The prevention or detection of crime;
- b) The apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

This exemption is a qualified and prejudice based exemption and therefore the legislators accept that there may be harm if released. The authority has to consider and describe the harm that would occur if a full disclosure of information were released.

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

release of all 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 as much detail as possible without triggering the above exemptions.

I approached our Crime Management Data Returns Administrator for assistance with your request. The Connect System is used to record complaints or allegations of those matters, which the Home Office specify should be recorded as 'crimes'. She conducted a search of the system.

All our systems are designed and used first and foremost for Policing Purposes and have limited search capability.

The Administrator has provided me with the enclosed spreadsheet and the following explanation of her search criteria:

With regards to the below request.

Honour Based Violence

I have included a count of offences recorded for CONNECT Crime where the Keyword – Honour Based Incident has been recorded, where the offence was recorded between 01-Jan-2018 and 31-Dec-2018.

I have also included a breakdown of the offence outcome.

Forced Marriage

I have searched for Forced Marriage Offences recorded for CONNECT Crime, where the offence was recorded between 01-Jan-2018 and 31-Dec-2018 -

1 Offence is recorded with outcome 15 - Named Suspect Identified: Victim Supports Police Action but Evidential Difficulties Prevent Further Action (CPS or Police decision)

Please note, whilst we are unable to provide 'conviction' data (this information may be available from the MoJ), we can provide where recorded the offence outcome.

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review by following the advice contained in the separate notice enclosed with this correspondence:

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:
The Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,

Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire, SK9 5AF.
Telephone: 08456 306060 or 01625 545745
Website: www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Louise Holmes
Information Compliance Clerk
South Yorkshire Police
Information Compliance Unit
Professional Standards Department
Unit 20 Sheffield 35A Business Park
Churchill Way
Sheffield
S35 2PY

Please note that police forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide information and statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data. It should be noted that for these reasons this forces response to your questions should not be used for the comparison purposes with any other response you may receive.

South Yorkshire Police provides you the right to request a re-examination of your case under its review procedure (copy enclosed). If you decide to request such a review and having followed the Constabulary's full process you are still dissatisfied, then you have the right to direct your comments to the Information Commissioner who will give it consideration.

The South Yorkshire Police in complying with their statutory duty under sections 1 and 11 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to release the enclosed information will not breach the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. However, the rights of the copyright owner of the enclosed information will continue to be protected by law. Applications for the copyright owner's written permission to reproduce any part of the attached information should be addressed to The Force Solicitor, South Yorkshire Police, Police Headquarters, 5 Carbrook Hall Road, Sheffield, S9 2EG

Appeal Process for Freedom of Information

Using this process will not affect your right to appeal directly to the Information Commissioner. However, it will usually be quicker if matters can be resolved locally using

this process.

Who can appeal?

Anyone who has requested information from the Force in writing can appeal within 20 working days from the date of the response provided. If you have requested information and you are not satisfied with the way we have dealt with your request, you can use the appeal process to have it looked at again. If someone who requested information would like to appeal but cannot do so themselves you can appeal on their behalf, but it will help us if you make it clear that you are doing so.

What can I appeal about?

You can appeal about the range, amount and format of information we have sent following a request. You can also appeal about the way a request was handled – for example, the time it took to respond, or the way letters were worded.

How do I appeal?

You can appeal by writing, emailing or faxing your appeal/complaint to the address below. To deal with your appeal as quickly as possible, it will help if you can give us as much information as you can about the request made, such as the reference number, and the reason for your appeal/ complaint.

What happens to my appeal?

Once we have enough details to identify the request you are concerned about, a qualified person, other than the initial decision maker, will deal with the internal review.

How long does it take?

Whatever their conclusion, you will be informed of the result as soon as possible, and in any case within 20 days of submitting your appeal.

If you are still not satisfied, you may then appeal to the Information Commissioner.

Appeal Address

**Information Compliance Unit South Yorkshire Police Professional Standards
Department Unit 20 Sheffield 35A Business Park Churchill Way Sheffield S35 2PY**

Email foi@southyorks.pnn.police.uk