



James Hodson
Information Rights
Bedfordshire Police Headquarters,
Woburn Road, Kempston,
Bedford, MK43 9AX

Telephone: 01234 842547
Email: foi@herts.pnn.police.uk

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Our Ref: FOI2018/00962

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2018/00962

I write in connection with your request for information received on 22nd February. I note you seek access to the following information:

1. For the last five years, how many reports of crimes related to domestic abuse were not formally or properly recorded. For example, HMICFRS found in 2016-17 Hertfordshire Constabulary is not recording over 11,200 reports of crime each year. What are Hertfordshire's own statistics on this, specifically in relation to domestic abuse related incidents. i. In these instances what reasons were given for not recording the incidents or crimes, if any?

2. How many women in your jurisdiction, in the last five years, have been murdered by an individual that they had previously reported to you for domestic abuse? i. In these cases, what had been the outcome of the original reported incident?

3. How many complaints have been made against any officers for the way they have handled a domestic abuse related incident over the last five years?

If you can identify any ways that my request could be refined please provide further advice and assistance to indicate this. If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me via email or phone (02076931665) and I will be happy to clarify what I am asking for, my details are outlined below. Thank you for your time and I look forward to your response.

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (The Act) to handle all requests in a manner that is blind to the identity of the requestor. Any information released in response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore, in the public domain without caveat.

Following enquiries within the Constabulary please see our response below.

Response

Q1 - Hertfordshire Constabulary rigorously reviews every report of Domestic Abuse. Each report is either recorded as a crime (in line with National Crime Recording Standards) or a Non-Crime Domestic Abuse incident, which is similarly recorded within the Constabulary's crime recording system. In the last 5 years the following numbers of crime and non-crime incidents were recorded (1st April – 31st March)

2013- 2014 Crimes; 4005	Non-Crime Domestic Abuse incidents ; 8945
2014-2015 Crimes; 5850	Non-Crime Domestic Abuse incidents ; 9700
2015-2016 Crimes; 7980	Non-Crime Domestic Abuse incidents ; 9600
2016-2017 Crimes; 9509	Non-Crime Domestic Abuse incidents ; 8963
2017-2018 Crimes; 10445	Non-Crime Domestic Abuse incidents ; 9292

The HMICFRS Crime Data Integrity inspection that is referred to by the originator of this question cites an estimate of 11,200 crimes were not recorded within Hertfordshire within an annual period. This figure reflects the findings of HMICFRS in relation to ALL crime , not specifically Domestic Abuse. Hertfordshire Constabulary has reviewed in detail the findings of HMICFRS .

Of the 1,215 reports of crime audited, HMIC found 331 to be related to Domestic Abuse. That is to say that of the total audit 27% of crime was Domestic Abuse. However within Hertfordshire (using the same sample timeframe) less than half

of that figure (13%) of crime is in fact recorded as related to Domestic Abuse. This discrepancy has come about in the main due to the methodology adopted by HMICFRS. The methodology is set in such a way as to calculate unrecorded crime by focussing on incident types. There were a total of 1361 incidents that were subject of initial inspection (1215 were finally audited). The weighting is in favour of utilising the "violence" incident type, 780 incident(57%) , "Other Crime" accounted for only 370 incidents and "Sexual Offences" 211 incidents. As such statistically the bias towards violent incidents will increase the overall missed crime calculations.

The report states that of the 331 reports of Domestic Abuse audited the constabulary had recorded 283 crimes. The 48 reports not recorded have all been reviewed. 43 of these incidents were entered onto our crime recording system as Non Crime Domestic Abuse Incidents, 1 as an N100 classification* and in each of the four remaining unrecorded matters the victim was visited by police and protection from harm was considered.

This (using HMICFRS estimated statistics) means that of the 11,200 reports of crime a year not recorded, 3,456 would have been Domestic Abuse related, however ALL of those unrecorded crimes would have had face to face police involvement and victim consideration relating to the protection from harm.

**Home Office classification N100*

A record created to describe why reported incidents of rape or attempted rapes, whether from victims, witnesses or third parties, have not been immediately recorded as a confirmed crime. This can include where additional information confirms the rape did not occur, or where the rape occurred in another force area and was therefore transferred to the relevant force to record and investigate.

Q2 – 3 murdered women had previously been the victim of domestic abuse

Person 1: Murdered in 2014

Year	Offence	Outcome
2013	Assault – Occasioning ABH	No Further Action
2014	Assault – Occasioning ABH	Named Suspect, Evidential Difficulties
2014	Damage or Destroy £5000 or Less Dwelling	Charged/Summoned
2014	Assault – Occasioning ABH	Charged/Summoned
2014	Damage or Destroy £5000 or Less Dwelling	Named Suspect, Evidential Difficulties

Person 2: Murdered in 2014

Year	Offence	Outcome
2012	Domestic Violence – Non-Crime	Not available as Non Crime
2012	Assault – Common – Without Injury	Caution – Adults
2012	Domestic Violence – Non-Crime	Not available as Non Crime
2013	Domestic Violence – Non-Crime	Not available as Non Crime
2014	Assault – Occasioning ABH	Charged/Summoned

Person 3: Murdered in 2017

Year	Offence	Outcome
2015	Domestic Violence – Non-Crime	Not available as Non Crime
2015	Domestic Violence – Non-Crime	Not available as Non Crime
2015	Domestic Violence – Non-Crime	Not available as Non Crime
2016	Domestic Violence – Non-Crime	Not available as Non Crime

Q3 - Complaint allegations within cases are recorded against one or more of the 23 allegation types as defined by the IOPC (Independent office for Police Conduct).

There is not a specific category for the way officers have handled domestic abuse related incidents and therefore there is no specific data held in this regard by PSD.

However in order to provide some information in response a search has been made of the PSD database for all complaint allegations that contain the word 'domestic' recorded between 1/1/2013 and 31/12/2017 and then each on checked for relevance to this request.

Data has been included whether the person complained about was staff or officer.

Force	Number of complaint allegations relating to domestic abuse investigations
Herts	31

The numerical data presented in this response is an un-audited snapshot of un-published data sourced from "live" systems and is subject to the interpretation of the original request by the individual extracting the data.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter please do not hesitate to contact me quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

James Hodson
Information Rights

Hertfordshire Constabulary provides you the right to request an independent review of this response under its review procedure. If you require such a review you must notify us within two months from the date of this letter. After lodging a complaint with Hertfordshire Constabulary if you are still dissatisfied with the decision you may make an application to the Information Commissioner. For information on how to make a complaint please visit their website at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/> or contact them on 0303 123 1113.