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Our Ref: FOI2018/03025

### REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2018/03025

I write in connection with your request for information received on 4th June. I note you seek access to the following information:

1. How many murders have there been each year, since 1970?
2. How many unsolved murders do you have on your records (dating back as far as possible)?
3. In regards to the unsolved homicides, please could you provide:
  - a. Their name,
  - b. Age,
  - c. Gender,
  - d. Ethnicity
  - e. Address/postcode,
  - f. Occupation (if known)
  - g. Date of incident,
  - h. Cause of death,
  - i. Reason why it has gone unsolved,
  - j. Whether anyone was tried for the incident but acquitted/found not guilty
  - k. How long the case has been cold for? (i.e. when was it passed to the major review team?)
4. Do you have a major crime review team, or a specific cold-case investigation team? 5. How many staff are on these teams/units? 6. What is your policy in relation to reviewing unsolved murders?

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.

**Response** - Following enquiries within the Constabulary please see our response below;

The information you have requested is not easily retrievable. In excess of 200 searches will need to be conducted to collate the information held by the Constabulary. Unfortunately this means it is not possible to suggest a way to refine this request, as even if the date range were reduced it would still require multiple records to be manually checked.

We therefore, consider that the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the appropriate limit of £450 as has been stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees & Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides that –  
“Section 1(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 appropriate limit.”

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Hertfordshire Constabulary, when refusing to provide such information (because the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit) to provide you the applicant with a notice which states that fact. This letter acts as a Refusal Notice under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

However, I am able to provide the following information relative to your request, which is already published on the Hertfordshire Constabulary website. I hope this is helpful however; it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees

regulations for the remainder of your request. Please follow the link below and click the heading 'Unsolved Murders' published on 01/06/2018;

<https://www.herts.police.uk/Information-and-services/About-us/Freedom-of-information/FOI-publications>

The 2 links below are also to the Hertfordshire Constabulary website and are concerning the Major Crime Unit;

<https://www.herts.police.uk/Information-and-services/About-us/Our-units/Units#MajorCrime>

[https://www.herts.police.uk/Search-Results?search\\_keywords=major%20crime](https://www.herts.police.uk/Search-Results?search_keywords=major%20crime)

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

Yours sincerely

Sonia Chopra-Miah  
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.