

17 December 2018

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20182234

REQUEST

I am writing to request information on the number of homicides committed in the past three years to date and the classification of these murders. I am seeking this information to understand what proportion of homicides involve knife crimes/stabbings, whether these are gang-related, and how many of this murders are a culmination of domestic abuse.

To this end, I would be grateful if you would provide me with the following information:

1. The number of homicides committed within the jurisdiction of your force/constabulary **in 2016, 2017 and 2018**. Please provide the information for 2016 and 2017 running from January to December, and for 2018 January to Present or the most recent date you can provide;
2. The number of homicides committed in South Yorkshire during these three years in which **the murder weapon (s) included a sharp object** (essentially murder involving a knife and/or stabbing);
3. The number of homicides committed in South Yorkshire during these three years in which the murder weapon (s) included a sharp object in which **the victim was a) female, b) male and c) not recorded/other**;
4. The number of homicides committed during these three years in which the murder weapon (s) included a sharp object and were **assessed to be gang-motivated**;
5. The number of homicides committed in South Yorkshire during these three years in which the murder weapon (s) included a sharp object and were **classified as domestic abuse**.

RESPONSE

I approached our Crime Management Data Returns Officer for assistance with your request. 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'.

She 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 me with the enclosed spreadsheet in response and the following explanation regarding her search criteria:

CMS(ii) data –

I have included a count of homicide offences recorded on the CMS(ii) crime register where the offence was committed between 01-Jan-2016 and 04-Dec-2017. Of this count, I have provided a count of offences if recorded with a 'knife', a breakdown of the Domestic Flag and the Victim's gender. By 'knife' I mean what is defined as a knife in accordance with the Home Office Definition.

Please note - More than one weapon type may be recorded on some offences but for the purpose of this request, I have searched for offences where a 'KNIFE' has been recorded, however other weapon types may be recorded on the crime report and therefore each offence would have to be reviewed to establish if the knife was the weapon used to cause the fatal injury.

CONNECT data –

I have included a count of homicide offences recorded on CONNECT for crime where the offence was committed between 05-Dec-2017 and 30-Nov-2018. Of this count, I have provided a count of offences if recorded with a Keyword of either Use of Knife or other Sharp Instrument OR Domestic Abuse and a breakdown of the Victim's gender.

Please note - We have had to take a slightly different approach to extracting the data from CONNECT as the data is not recorded in the same format as the legacy system CMS(ii). SYP have changed their central crime management system in December 2017. Therefore data from the new system cannot be used as a direct comparison due to the different ways in which crimes are recorded. However, the data has been given to comply with original request and displayed here to show an outline trend.