

14 May 2019

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20190840

REQUEST

- 1. How many women have been killed by a man in the last five years? Please break down by each calendar year.**
- 2. How many of these men have gone on to face a murder charge? Please break down by each calendar year.**
- 3. How many of these men have gone on to face a manslaughter charge? Please break down by each calendar year.**
- 4. Please provide details for each woman on how they were killed, when they were killed and any activities that they were partaking in when they were killed. Please also include their relationship to their killer eg. partner, stranger, friend.**
- 5. How many men have been killed by women in the last five years? Please break down by each calendar year.**

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 has provided me with the raw data and investigation references for me to conduct my own system searches. Having reviewed the available data and system records I can confirm that the requested information is held, but I am unable to provide this to 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 information requested within question 4.

Section 38 - Health and Safety (1)(a)

HARM

It is important to state that a response to a Freedom of Information request is not just published to the requestor, but also to the world, by its possible publication on the force disclosure log. Therefore, any material provided within the response could be potentially

viewed by anyone who wished to see it. This would include family and friends of the victims and anyone affected or involved in the murder cases.

I have assessed the level of detail requested in question 4 against the recorded information held and I am of the view that the release of this level of detail, '*how they were killed, when they were killed and any activities that they were partaking in when they were killed*' is likely to cause significant upset or distress to the relatives of the victim, due to the nature of the crimes and any sensitivities involved. Whilst this detail may well already be in the public domain, I must also consider that to be reminded of this again, or continuously could have a detrimental affect on the health of those who knew the victim.

PUBLIC INTEREST TEST

Section 38 – Favouring non disclosure

- The distress that may be caused to the family concerned, by the release of material into the wider public domain.

Section 38 – Favouring disclosure

- The public would have a better understanding of individual cases and the difficult and often distressing circumstances officers have to work in and transparency of police operations.

Balancing Test

The key test when considering the public interest is to establish whether in all the circumstances of the request, the public interest in disclosing the information is not outweighed by maintaining the exemption.

As I have already stated, a Freedom of Information request is not just a release to the person making the request, but also to the world. It cannot be clear what effect disclosures made by a Freedom of Information response may have upon the families of the victims by a and the potential distress that this could cause if they are reminded of the circumstances in which a loved one has died. It is my opinion that this factor favours maintaining this exemption and as such this level of detail is withheld.

Aside from this, I am able to disclose the following details extracted from the raw data and recorded information manually reviewed.

Our Data Returns officer has provided the following explanation regarding her search criteria:

CMS(II) Data –

I have included details of Homicide offences recorded on the CMS(ii) crime register between 01-Jan-2014 and 04-Dec-2017, where the victim is Female and where an offender has been charged and is Male.

I have also included details of where the Victim is Male and where an offender has been charged and is female.

CONNECT Data –

Due to the ongoing issues regarding offender data in CONNECT, as previously stated, PMU has taken the decision that we are unable to provide data regarding suspects i.e. outcomes, ages, gender etc. due to data quality and accuracy issues, therefore I cannot currently fulfil this request for CONNECT. However, I have provided a single record level data for Homicide offences recorded for CONNECT Crime between 05-Dec-2017 and 31-Dec-2018, where the offence outcome is Charged. Each offence would have to be reviewed to identify the gender of the victim\offender and the circumstances of offence.

Please note –

The offender may have been charged with Murder this may not necessarily have been the outcome at court, again each offence would have to be reviewed to establish this detail.

Some offences may be recorded with more than one offender, regardless of gender.

Questions 1, 2 and 4

Year	Accused / Complainant	Sex	Offender Disposal	Relationship
2014	A	M	A - CHARGED	EX OR ESTRANGED HUSBAND
	CP	F		
2014	A	M	A - CHARGED	HUSBAND
	CP	F		
2014	A	M	A - CHARGED	ACQUAINTANCE
	CP	F		
2014	A	M	A - CHARGED	HUSBAND
	CP	F		
2016	A	M	CHARGED WITH OFFENCE RECORDED	EX OR ESTRANGED COMMON LAW HUSBAND/PARTNER
	CP	F		
2016	A	M	CHARGED WITH OFFENCE RECORDED	COMMON LAW HUSBAND/PARTNER
	CP	F		
2017	A	M	CHARGED WITH OFFENCE RECORDED	FRIEND
	CP	F		
2017	A	M	CHARGED WITH OFFENCE RECORDED	EX OR ESTRANGED COMMON LAW HUSBAND/PARTNER
	CP	F		
2017	A	M	01 - Charged/Summonsed	PARTNER
	CP	F		

Question 3

Whilst our records indicate that the offender has been charged with Murder, this may not necessarily have been the outcome at court. This information may be available from the Ministry of Justice.

Question 5

2014	0
2015	1
2016	3
2017	3
2018	0