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Police**



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Date: 8<sup>th</sup> August 2016  
FOI Ref: 16/07/745

Dear Ms Thomas,

**Freedom of Information Request 16/07/745**

I write in response to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) received on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2016, and refined on 28<sup>th</sup> July to:

- 1. Total number of calls for assistance to Kent Constabulary for Domestic Violence related incidents for the period 1st January 2015 - 31st December 2015.*
- 2. Total number of call for assistance to Kent Constabulary for Domestic Abuse related crimes for the period 29th December 2015 - To date 01.06.16.*
- 3. Total number of calls for assistance to Kent Constabulary for Domestic Abuse related sexual offences for the period 1st January 2015 - 31st December 2015.*
- 4. Total number of calls for assistance to Kent Constabulary for Domestic Abuse related assault with injury crimes for the period 1st Janaury 2015 - 31st December 2015.*
- 5. Total number of calls for assistance to Kent Constabulary for Domestic Abuse related harassment crimes for the period 1st January 2015 - 31st December 2015.*
- 6. Total number of calls for assistance to Kent Constabulary for Domestic Abuse related stalking crimes for the period 1st January 2015 - 31st December 2015.*
- 7. Total number of DVPO issued by Kent Constabulary in the period 1st January 2015 - 31st December 2015.*
- 8. Total number of DVPN issued by Kent Constabulary in the period 1st January 2015 - 31st December 2015.*
- 9. Total number of specialist Domestic Abuse Police Officers at Kent Constabulary.*
- 10. Total number of Domestic Violence incidents/crimes where Restorative Justice was used for the period 1st January 2015 - 31st December 2015*
  - a. How many of the crimes recorded were graded STANDARD risk on DASH?*
  - b. How many of the crimes recorded were graded MEDIUM risk on DASH?*
  - c. How many of the crimes recorded were grades HIGH risk on DASH?*
- 11. Total number of Domestic Abuse incidents/crimes where Restorative Justice was used for the period 1st January 2015 - 31st December 2015*
  - a. How many of the crimes recorded were graded STANDARD risk on DASH?*
  - b. How many of the crimes recorded were graded MEDIUM risk on DASH?*
  - c. How many of the crimes recorded were grades HIGH risk on DASH?*
- 12. Total number of Stalking incidents/crimes where Restorative Justice was used for the period 1st January 2015 - 31st December 2015*
  - a. How many of the crimes recorded were graded STANDARD risk on DASH?*

*b. How many of the crimes recorded were graded MEDIUM risk on DASH?*

*c. How many of the crimes recorded were grades HIGH risk on DASH?*

*13. Total number of Harassment incidents/crimes where Restorative Justice was used for the period 1st January 2015 - 31st December 2015*

*a. How many of the crimes recorded were graded STANDARD risk on DASH?*

*b. How many of the crimes recorded were graded MEDIUM risk on DASH?*

*c. How many of the crimes recorded were grades HIGH risk on DASH?*

*14. Total number of Sexual Violence incidents/crimes where Restorative Justice was used for the period 1st January 2015 - 31st December 2015*

*a. How many of the crimes recorded were graded STANDARD risk on DASH?*

*b. How many of the crimes recorded were graded MEDIUM risk on DASH?*

*c. How many of the crimes recorded were grades HIGH risk on DASH?*

*15. In addition could you please provide details of how Kent Constabulary collate the intel and information from DASH Risk Assessments.*

## **Response**

The definition of domestic violence and abuse as referred to in the College of Policing, Authorised Professional Practice documentation is:

"any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to: psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional"

This definition encompasses both domestic violence and domestic abuse and therefore for the purposes of this response these terms won't be broken down into separate categories and the term 'Domestic Abuse' will be used.

Please note that the data for question 1-6, and 10-14 has come from live systems and is therefore subject to change.

1. The number of call logs on the incident recording system that have been opened or closed with a Domestic Abuse tag between 01/01/2015 and 31/12/2015 is 34,038.
2. The number of call logs on the incident recording system that have been opened or closed with a Domestic Abuse tag between 29/12/2015 and 01/06/2016 is 16,050.

For question 3-6 the data will be based on crime reports recorded on the crime system, where the 'Domestic Abuse' marker has been attached between 01/01/2015 and 31/12/2015. This will allow the data to be broken down by offence. Please note that there are far fewer crime reports than incident reports, as not all incidents will meet the criteria to be recorded as a crime and multiple incidents can be attributed to one crime.

3. The number of crime reports relating to Sexual Offences is 485.
4. The number of crime reports relating to the offence of assault with injury 4,250.
5. The number of crime reports for the offence of harassment is 1,427.
6. The number of crime reports for the offence of stalking is 48.

Please note that Sexual Offences is a Home Office Grouping Category that covers a number of specific offences, whereas assault with injury, harassment and stalking are specific offences that fall under the category of Violence Against the Person.

7 and 8. In 2015 there were 133 applications for a Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO) following the issuing of a Domestic Violence Protection Notice (DVPN). A DVPO was granted in 129 of these applications.

9. At Kent Police, all officers are suitably trained and equipped to deal with domestic abuse, in line with HMIC recommendations. As such there are no specialist Domestic Abuse investigation officers within Kent Police.

Below is further information on our Domestic Abuse investigation practices, taken from the 'Kent Police Domestic Abuse Action Plan'.

High Risk Domestic Abuse is investigated by the main Criminal Investigation Department supported by specialist officers from within the local Combined Safeguarding Team (CST) who manage safety planning and MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) referrals. All other incidents are investigated by Local District Policing Teams with support from the local CST when required. The volume of work necessitates this wider investigative response so that we genuinely do make 'Domestic Abuse Everyone's Business'. This also provides additional investigative supervision and resilience within this demanding and critical area of policing. Within Public Protection we aligned Detective Inspector portfolios on Honour Based Abuse & Violence, Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), again this work is collaborative and has meant Kent have been the first force to successfully gain a FGM prevention order. Early consultation with the Crown Prosecution Service and working with our Criminal Justice internal partners ensures that Domestic Abuse is dealt with proportionately and robustly.

10 and 11. There were 25 crime reports, with a 'Domestic Abuse' marker with an outcome of Community Resolution with Restorative Justice. 3 of these did not have a DASH assessment completed due to the nature of the offence.

- a) 17 had a risk category of Standard following the Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment and Honour Based Violence (DASH) Assessment
- b) 5 had a risk category of Medium following the DASH Assessment
- c) 0 had a risk category of High following the DASH Assessment

Of these crime reports, 13 had offences that came under the HO Grouping Category of Violence Against the Person. 1 of these did not have a DASH Assessment completed.

- a) 8 had a risk category of Standard following the DASH Assessment
- b) 4 had a risk category of Medium following the DASH Assessment
- c) 0 had a risk category of High following the DASH Assessment

12, 13 and 14. There are no recorded crime outcomes of Community Resolution with Restorative Justice for any crime reports with the 'Domestic Abuse' marker relating to harassment, stalking or Sexual Offences.

15. DASH is a risk assessment tool designed to identify and signpost victims appropriately rather than an evidential gathering tool. It is used by Police and other partner agencies to risk assess victims subject to Domestic Abuse.

I apologise that this response reaches you outside the twenty working day deadline but thank you for your interest in Kent Police. If you have any queries about your request or the application of the FOIA generally, please contact this office quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

**Richeal Grant**

**Freedom of Information Administrator**

## **Your right to appeal**

We take our responsibilities under the Freedom of Information Act seriously but, if you feel your request has not been properly handled or you are otherwise dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, you have the right to appeal. We will conduct an internal review to investigate the matter and endeavor to reply within 20 working days. If your appeal concerns the decision to apply an exemption, it would assist the review if you would outline why you believe the exemption does not apply.

You may lodge your appeal by writing to:

Freedom of Information  
Kent Police Headquarters  
Sutton Road,  
Maidstone  
Kent  
ME15 9BZ

Or by e-mailing [freedomofinformation@kent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@kent.pnn.police.uk)

If you are still dissatisfied following our internal review, you have the right under section 50 of the Act to appeal directly to the Information Commissioner who would normally expect you to have exhausted the internal review procedure provided by Kent Police.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

FOI Compliance Team (complaints)  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF