



Dear Charlotte Jones,

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2019.0962

On the 9th September 2019 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am a MSc student studying Forensic Science and Criminal Justice with the University of Leicester. I am currently completing my dissertation which seeks to look at the impact Forensic Archaeology has on unsolved homicide cases within the UK. I would be grateful if the following questions could be answered as outlined in the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Definition of terms for clarity:

Homicide – The unlawful killing of a person, to include murder and all categories of manslaughter.

Detected homicide case – a solved homicide case whereby a person(s) has been charged or has died prior to charges being brought.

Undetected homicide case – a currently unsolved homicide case.

Undetected homicide case review – the review of all evidence in relation to an undetected homicide case.

Freedom of Information Questions:

1. How many reported undetected homicide cases are there within your jurisdiction currently?
2. Do you currently have a team solely responsible for the review of undetected homicides?
3. What is the current standard undetected homicide case review frequency within your jurisdiction?
4. During the years 2011 – 2014 (inclusive), how many undetected homicide cases were reviewed within your jurisdiction?
5. During the years 2011 – 2014 (inclusive), how many undetected homicide cases were detected within your jurisdiction?
6. Does your jurisdiction currently have a Forensic Archaeologist to be called upon as required?
7. During the years 2011 – 2014 (inclusive), how many undetected homicide case reviews utilised Forensic Archaeology?
8. During the years 2011 – 2014 (inclusive), how many undetected homicide cases were detected as a result of Forensic Archaeology?

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 s1, I can confirm that Gloucestershire Constabulary holds some relevant information.

1. A search of the Crime Recording System has been carried out for all substantiated crimes where the offence falls under the Home Office offence category of Homicide and where the detection code is 'undetected'. This has returned a total of 8.

This figure is correct as of the date of your request.

Please note that offences within the 'Homicide' Home Office Category include Murder, Manslaughter, Corporate Manslaughter and Infanticide.

2. No – the Constabulary does have a Major Crime Review Group that sits regularly, however the remit covers all major crime, not solely undetected homicide.

3. There are 3 types of review, all of which are informed by the ACPO Crime Committee document for Major Crime Reviews published in 1998 and updated in 2007:

- *Peer Reviews*: A Peer review should be considered where an investigation remains unsolved after 7 days.
- *28-day Undetected Review*: In general, if a case has not been detected after 28 days from the outset of the investigation, a review should be commenced at the earliest opportunity
- *Cold Case/Unresolved Reviews*: Cold case/unresolved reviews refer to a homicide or other major crime investigation that remains unsolved. They are usually investigations that are over 2 years old and have been 'closed down' as active investigations. Normally new intelligence/information or advances in forensic science are the key themes that will instigate investigations to become 'active' again.

4. We are unable to answer this question – the current Major Crime Review group has only been in existence for approx. 18 months, and no details are held regarding reviews carried out before this time.

5. 0 – A manual review has been conducted of all crimes recorded between 01/01/2011 and 31/12/2014 where the offence falls under the HO Category of Homicide. None of the records identified were reviewed with a view to updating the detection.

6. Yes. Please note however, that there is no dedicated in-force resource, but we do have access to forensic archaeology and forensic anthropology through our contracted Forensic Service Providers.

7. 0

8. 0

If you are not satisfied with this response or any actions taken in dealing with your request, you have the right to ask that we review your case under our internal procedure. Please note that a request for an internal review must be made within 20 working days of the response to your original request.

If you decide to request that such a review is undertaken and following this process you are still unsatisfied, you then have the right to direct your complaint to the Information Commissioner for consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Miss N Cramb
Disclosure Officer
Gloucestershire Constabulary