



Disclosure Unit
PO Box 9
Laburnum Road
Wakefield
WF1 3QP
Tel: 01924 296006

Information Management

Our Ref: IR 7558/19

08/01/2020

Dear Ms Jones,

RE: Internal review of FOI 5733/19

I am in receipt of your request for an internal review relating to the timeliness of responding to your request under the Freedom of Information Act.

I have been asked to carry out this internal review as an independent person who was not involved with the original request.

Your request 5733/19 asked for the following information:

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:

Q1. How many reported undetected homicide cases are there within your jurisdiction currently?

Q2. Do you currently have a team solely responsible for the review of undetected homicides?

Q3. What is the current standard undetected homicide case review frequency within your jurisdiction?

Q4. During the years 2011 – 2014 (inclusive), how many undetected homicide cases were reviewed within your jurisdiction?

Q5. During the years 2011 – 2014 (inclusive), how many undetected homicide cases were detected within your jurisdiction?

Q6. Does your jurisdiction currently have a Forensic Archaeologist to be called upon as required?

Q7. During the years 2011 – 2014 (inclusive), how many undetected homicide case reviews utilised Forensic Archaeology?

Q8. During the years 2011 – 2014 (inclusive), how many undetected homicide cases were detected as a result of Forensic Archaeology?

Internal review:

I am writing to request an internal review of West Yorkshire Police's handling of my FOI request 'Forensic Archaeology and Undetected Homicide Cases'.

Sadly this request is now long overdue.

Your original request was received on the 12/09/2019 with a completion date by the 10/10/2019. A response has not yet been provided.

I have made an assessment of the communications between ourselves and other departments in relation to your request, and can inform you that the delays have been incurred because we have still not received any data back from the department that would hold this information, despite chasing them on numerous occasions. Please be assured that we will continue to chase them in order to provide you with a response as soon as possible.

I have reviewed the matter and I am satisfied that West Yorkshire Police have breached the FOI legislation and as such I uphold your complaint.

Please accept our sincere apologies for the delay in dealing with your request.

If you are dissatisfied with the internal review decision made by West Yorkshire Police, you may make an application to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirement of the Act.

For information on how to make an application the Information Commissioner please visit their website at www.ico.gov.uk.

Alternatively, you can contact their helpline or write to them at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

FOI Help line: 0303 1231113

Yours sincerely

Kirsti Kaye
Disclosure Officer