



Derbyshire Constabulary

Ms Charlotte Jones

Telephone: 101
Direct Line: 0300 122 8752
Ask For: Freedom of Information
Our Ref: 004482/19
Your Ref: Forensic Archaeology/Homicide
Date: 2 October 2019

Dear Ms Jones

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST - REFERENCE NO: 004482/19

I write in connection with your request for information which was received by Derbyshire Constabulary on 09/09/2019. I note you seek access to the following information:

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?*

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request, searches were conducted within Derbyshire Constabulary to locate any relevant information. The searches located some information relevant to your request.

Decision

I have today decided to disclose the located information to you in full.

1. 10
2. Yes the East Midlands Special Operations Unit - Regional Review Unit.
3. Please see the below

APPROVED PROFESSIONAL PRACTISE SECTION 4 MAJOR CRIME REVIEWS

4.5.2 Timing of reviews

The timings of the statutory, multi-agency reviews are dictated by guidance as referred to under section 4.3 above.

In respect of 28 day undetected reviews, in general, if a case has not been detected after twenty-eight days from the outset of the enquiry a review should commence at the earliest opportunity. However in exceptional cases there may be good reasons to delay a review, for example, disruption to a critical phase of the investigation. Under these circumstances a written record of the reasons for delaying the review should be made in the SIO's Decision log.

As a minimum, all undetected murders should be reviewed at least every two years.

The review should be an on-going process, preferably using the same review officer. The frequency with which interim review reports are prepared is a matter of judgement for the relevant commissioning ASCPO officer.

And of course undetected homicides are reviewed as appropriate based on the intelligence available in that case, on any new information received or when there are forensic opportunities or developments available.

4. 7
5. There were a total of 35 homicides recorded between 2011 and 2014 (inclusive). Of these 34 individuals have been charged (therefore detected) with the remaining one having an open verdict.
6. Yes. Arrangements are made via East Midlands Special Operations Unit - Forensic Service.
7. None
8. None

In relation to this data please note the following:

- The data has been extracted from the Constabulary's Crime System which is, to all intent a 'living' system in that it is constantly being updated. As such the data can only be verified for the date/time extracted.
- Police forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide crime statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the crime data. It should be noted that for these reasons this Constabulary's response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you may receive.

Right to Request a Review (Complaint)

Your attention is drawn to the attached sheet, which details your right of complaint.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Derbyshire Constabulary.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please write or contact the Freedom of Information Officer, on the above telephone number quoting the reference number in the header.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Lea
Freedom of Information Officer

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