



# WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

## *Information Management*

### **Freedom Of Information**

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Wednesday, 04 December 2013

Dear Ms McNeil

FOI Reference No: FOI-20131/310932

Thank you for your request for information received by West Yorkshire Police on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2013. Please accept our apologies of the delay in dealing with your request.

You requested the following information. Your request is in blue font and our response is in black font:

The Crown Prosecution has recently changed its guidance on prosecution of child sexual abuse cases.

Under Adult Victims of Child Sexual Abuse No.97. It states "Consistent and effective support should be provided including keeping under constant review whether there is a need for counselling and special measures"

Is there any equivalent guidance for adult victims from the police eg when giving statements can trigger flashbacks etc

This is a huge issue, with many adults of child sexual abuse wanting and needing counselling in general but particularly in circumstances likely to trigger them, like when trying to help police.

Is there any guidance that counselling should only happen after a trial?

There is no guidance that counselling should only happen after a trial. In fact there are clear statements that victims and witnesses should not be denied access to any therapeutic help prior to any criminal trial, and this is supported by the following guidance documents:

1. Ministry of Justice Achieving Best Evidence in Criminal Proceedings 2011 guidance, which can be found using the following link:  
[http://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/docs/best\\_evidence\\_in\\_criminal\\_proceedings.pdf](http://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/docs/best_evidence_in_criminal_proceedings.pdf)
2. NPIA guidance on Investigating and Prosecuting Rape 2009, which can be found using the following link:  
[http://www.acpo.police.uk/documents/crime/2011/20110303%20CBA.%20Guidance%20for%20Investigating%20and%20Prosecuting%20Rape\\_Public%20Facing\\_2010.pdf](http://www.acpo.police.uk/documents/crime/2011/20110303%20CBA.%20Guidance%20for%20Investigating%20and%20Prosecuting%20Rape_Public%20Facing_2010.pdf)
3. CPS guidance 'Provision of Therapy for Vulnerable or Intimidated Adult Witnesses prior to a criminal trial - Practice guidance, which can be found using the following link:  
<http://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/prosecution/pretrialadult.html>

4. Pre-trial therapy for child witnesses is the subject of joint guidance in 'Provision of Therapy for Child witnesses prior to a criminal trial 2001', which can be found using the following link:  
<http://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/prosecution/therapychild.html>

## **COMPLAINT RIGHTS**

If you are not satisfied with how this request has been handled or with the information provided, please read the advice notice attached to this letter. If you do wish to take up your right of complaint, please remember to quote the reference number above in any future correspondence.

Yours sincerely

Sue Durham  
Force Information Manager

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## COMPLAINT RIGHTS

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### 1. Are you unhappy with how your request has been handled or do you think the decision is incorrect?

You have the right to request that West Yorkshire Police review their decision. Prior to lodging a formal complaint you are welcome and encouraged to discuss the decision with the case officer that dealt with your request.

### 2. Ask to have the decision looked at again

The quickest and easiest way to have the decision looked at again is to telephone the case officer that is nominated at the end of your decision letter. That person will be able to discuss the decision, explain any issues and assist with any problems.

### 3. Complaint

If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or the decision of West Yorkshire Police made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding access to information, you can lodge a written complaint to have the decision internally reviewed.

A West Yorkshire Police internal review of your decision will be carried out by a senior member of staff, who is fully trained in interpreting Freedom of Information legislation, yet is independent with regards to the original decision made, i.e. has never previously been involved with your request.

Complaints will only be treated as valid if they are received by West Yorkshire Police within a 60 day timeframe from the date of the decision letter. They must include the original FOI Reference Number and can only be submitted in writing by using the following contact details:

[foi@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk)

or

West Yorkshire Police  
FOI Internal Reviews  
PO Box 9  
Laburnum Road  
Wakefield  
WF1 3QP

In all possible circumstances West Yorkshire Police will aim to complete and respond to your internal review within 20 working days; however this date may be extendable in exceptional circumstances by another 20 working days.

### 4. The Information Commissioner

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

For information on how to make application to the Information Commissioner please visit their website at [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

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

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
FOI Help Line: 0303 1231113