



Response Date: 14/11/2024

2024/1010 - Female victims of homicide

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

**1. a list of all female victims of homicide killed between 1 September 2019 and 1 September 2024 (inclusive) which your authority has been responsible for investigating and, for each victim:
the date of the homicide;
the names and ages of the victims;
the name and ages of the accused / perpetrator; the relationship between the accused and the victim; the sex of the accused / perpetrator; if identified, the way in which the victim was killed;**

One name of the arrested person has been removed as it is not in the public domain. To disclose this would be a breach of the Data Protection Act and therefore exempt under Section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under section 17 (1) of the legislation.

Additionally, concerns have been raised in relation to disclosing further details surrounding one of the cases.

Therefore, a Public Interest Test has been carried out to weigh up the reasons for and against disclosure; to ensure the release is in the interest of the public as a whole and not just the applicant.

The Public Interest Test has considered the following exemptions;

Section 31 (1) (a)(b) Law Enforcement

Section 31 (1) is a prejudice based qualified exemption and there is a requirement to articulate the harm test as well as carrying out a public interest test.

Overall Harm for Section 31

It would be harmful to provide further details in relation to one of the cases as information is not already in the public domain and investigations are actively being worked on.

It must be remembered that any disclosure under Freedom of Information is a disclosure to the world rather than to a particular applicant and this information could then be exploited by those intent on causing harm or criminal behaviour.

Factors favouring disclosure of the information Section 31 (1)

We accept that there is a clear public interest in making appropriate information available to the public in order to promote openness, transparency and to provide reassurance to the public in relation to the quality and nature of the policing capability provided by each force.

Factors favouring non-disclosure of the information Section 31 (1)

To provide further details of the case, and information not already in the public domain may have an undesirable impact on law enforcement operations. Disclosure of information that undermines the operational integrity of law enforcement.

Balance Test

The public interest test is a consideration of whether the community benefit of possession of the information outweighs the potential harm. It is not an evaluation of what interests the public. On weighing up the competing interests, we consider that the public interest test favours withholding the requested information.

Therefore, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under section 17 (1) of the legislation.

Reported Date	Involved Classification	Involved Forename	Involved Surname	Age	Involved Gender	Relationship to offender	Summary	Newspaper Article
25/12/2019	;Arrested;Charged;No further action;Suspect;	THOMAS	BRYAN	75	M	;Spouse/ defacto;	[Domestic] The IP's husband has stabbed her to the throat with a kitchen knife at home, inflicting serious injuries and killing her.	Man guilty of wife's manslaughter on Christmas Day - BBC News
25/12/2019	;Deceased;Aggrieved;	VIVIENNE	BRYAN	74	F			

Reported Date	Involved Classification	Involved Forename	Involved Surname	Age	Involved Gender	Relationship to offender	Summary	Newspaper Article
17/01/2020	;Aggrieved;	MIA	O'SULLIVAN	1	F		DROWNING OF A ONE YEAR OLD FEMALE.	Toddler left singing in the bath for 'very very short time' drowned as mum fetched towel - North Wales Live
17/01/2020	;NCC;Voluntarily attended;	JOELY	EASTHAM-JONES	26	F			

Reported Date	Involved Classification	Involved Forename	Involved Surname	Age	Involved Gender	Relationship to offender	Summary	Newspaper Article
29/12/2020	;Arrested;No further action;Voluntarily attended;Witness;	CARWYN	ROBERTS	36	M		REPORTS RECEIVED THAT THE IP WAS DECEASED IN THE LOC.	https://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/north-wales-news/mum-three-found-dead-gwynedd-24602282
29/12/2020	;Deceased;Aggrieved;	AMBER	MASON	25	F			

Reported Date	Involved Classification	Involved Forename	Involved Surname	Age	Involved Gender	Relationship to offender	Summary	Newspaper Article
11/02/2021	;Arrested;Charged;Suspect;	KYLE	ELLIS	25	M		Emergency services have been called to the location address after reports of house being on fire. On police arrival female had been removed from address by fire service. On being removed, the female has been confirmed to be deceased and has been seen to have facial injuries. Two knives have also been seen sticking out of her chest.	https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11258563/Grandson-locked-stabbing-grandmother-death-playing-Call-Duty-hours.html
11/02/2021	;Deceased;Aggrieved;	SUSAN	HANNABY	69	F			

Reported Date	Involved Classification	Involved Forename	Involved Surname	Age	Involved Gender	Relationship to offender	Summary	Newspaper Article
31/07/2021	;Arrested;Charged;	MATTHEW	SELBY	19	M		Domestic - Argument between brother and sister resulting in the brother strangling the IP resulting in her death, no details of any weapons used.	Amanda Selby allegedly murdered by her brother 'had her throat crushed' Metro News
31/07/2021	;Deceased;Aggrieved;	AMANDA	SELBY	15	F			

Reported Date	Involved Classification	Involved Forename	Involved Surname	Age	Involved Gender	Relationship to offender	Summary	Newspaper Article
26/08/2021	;Arrested;Charged;Other;Suspect;	RUSSELL	MARSH	29	M		Domestic - Report that suspect has attended at a Police station and stated that they had done something awful to their wife. Entry gained to given address and deceased found under a pile of clothes on the bed in the bedroom.	https://www.northwales.police.uk/news/north-wales/news/news/2022/april/flintshire-man-sentenced-to-life-in-prison-for-murder/
26/08/2021	;Deceased;Aggrieved;	JADE	WARD	27	F	;Ex partner;		

Reported Date	Involved Classification	Involved Forename	Involved Surname	Age	Involved Gender	Relationship to offender	Summary	Newspaper Article
22/04/2022	;Arrested;Charged;Suspect;	COLIN	MILBURN	52	M		[Domestic] The IP's partner has repeatedly struck the IP to the head with a blunt object while the IP was in bed at home, inflicting fatal injuries.	Colin Milburn jailed for life for murder of Buddug Jones North Wales Police
22/04/2022	;Deceased;Aggrieved;	BUDDUG	JONES	48	F	;Spouse/default;		

Reported Date	Involved Classification	Involved Forename	Involved Surname	Age	Involved Gender	Relationship to offender	Summary	Newspaper Article
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19/06/2022	;Arrested;No further action;Other;Suspect;	* Exempt under Section 40						Inquest into death of Anglesey woman adjourned due to 'ongoing police investigation' - North Wales Live
19/06/2022	;Witness;Aggrieved;VUL;	JOSEPHINE	DARNELL	83	F	*		

Reported Date	Involved Classification	Involved Forename	Involved Surname	Age	Involved Gender	Relationship to offender	Summary	Newspaper Article
21/06/2022	;Deceased;Aggrieved;	DOREEN	MORRIS	64	F		HISTORIC MURDER OF VICTIM	Doreen Morris: Reward offered for information on Anglesey murder - BBC News

Reported Date	Involved Classification	Involved Forename	Involved Surname	Age	Involved Gender	Relationship to offender	Summary	Newspaper Article
09/07/2022	;Arrested;No further action;	RICHARD	PIMBLEY	52	M		Domestic - Report from ambulance to say death of female at the location,	Buckley: Woman died of alcohol-related liver and pancreatic disease The Leader
09/07/2022	;Deceased;Aggrieved;	DONNA	SHEARSMITH	41	F			

Reported Date	Involved Classification	Involved Forename	Involved Surname	Age	Involved Gender	Relationship to offender	Summary	Newspaper Article
10/07/2022	;Arrested;Charged;Other;	DAVID	REDFERN	45	M		CALL RECEIVED FROM AMBULANCE STATING FEMALE HAD BEEN PUSHED DOWN STAIRS NOT CONSCIOUS BUT BREATHING. FEMALE WENT INTO CARDIAC ARREST AND PASSED AWAY.	Man to serve at least 14 years for murder of woman who mistook his Welsh home for B&B Crime The Guardian
10/07/2022	;Deceased;Aggrieved;	MARGARET	BARNES	71	F			

Reported Date	Involved Classification	Involved Forename	Involved Surname	Age	Involved Gender	Relationship to offender	Summary
26/05/2023	;Deceased;	* Exempt under Section 31					

2. clarification that of those perpetrators, how many had been released on police bail at the time the offence was committed?

None were on police bail at the time the offence was committed.

Also, if possible, we would appreciate the following information:

3. whether there were any previous reports from the victim (or any third party) regarding the accused / perpetrator;

4. and whether there were any previous reports and / or convictions of any other offences related to violence against women perpetrated by the accused / perpetrator.

However, if you are unable to provide information on points 3 and 4, please provide information on the 1st and 2nd points only.

North Wales Police can neither confirm nor deny that information is held relevant to these questions as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 30 Investigations
Section 31 Law Enforcement

Section 30 is a class based exemption and consideration must be given as to whether there is a public interest in neither confirming nor denying the information exists is the appropriate response.

Section 31 is qualified exemptions and as such there is a requirement to articulate the harm and conduct a test of the public interest in confirmation or denial.

Harm in complying with s1(1)(a) – to confirm or not whether information is held

The applicant is asking specifically within questions 3&4 for information (aka intelligence) that has been provided to the Police Service in confidence by individuals. The public expect police forces and other law enforcement agencies to use all powers and tactics available to them in their endeavour to prevent and detect crime or disorder and maintain public safety. There are a number of tactics available for gathering intelligence including, as in this case, recorded information that is provided by members of the public when they contact North Wales Police of their own volition.

The [College of Police APP Information Management Module](#) is a national standard adhered to by all police forces across England and Wales. Police Information refers to all information obtained, recorded or processed for a policing purpose and includes information which is processed (known as data, including personal data) and information which has been subject to a process of evaluation (known as intelligence).

It is a business process with an intention to provide focus to operational police and to achieve a disproportionately greater impact from the resources applied to any problem. It is dependent on a clear framework of analysis of information and intelligence allowing a problem solving approach to law enforcement and crime prevention techniques.

The Police Service would never confirm or deny whether information has been supplied by members of the public relating to a named individual or not, whoever that individual may be, unless there is genuine operational reason to do so. If North Wales Police reveals information, by confirming information is held (by citing an exemption) or, conversely, stating no information is held, that in itself reveals information about a named individual and would undermine the above APP.

In addition, the flow of information (intelligence) into North Wales Police could be compromised which would have an impact on our ability to collect reliable and accurate intelligence resulting in more costly and time consuming methods of collecting information. In addition confirmation or denial has potential to undermine ongoing operations, investigations as well as any future judicial process.

Finally, and more importantly, any disclosure which would undermine an investigation would also compromise the health and safety of an individual placing them in danger.

Public Interest Considerations

Section 30

Factors favouring complying with s1(1)(a)

Confirming or denying whether information exists relevant to this request would lead to a better informed general public by identifying that North Wales Police robustly investigate crime. This fact alone may encourage individuals to provide intelligence in order to assist with investigations and promote public trust in providing transparency and demonstrating openness and accountability into where the police are currently focusing their investigations.

Factors against complying with Section 1(1)(a)

Confirmation or denial that information is held would suggest North Wales Police take their responsibility to appropriately handle and manage intelligence supplied to them flippantly.

Under FOI there is a requirement to comply with s1(1)(a) and confirm that information is held. In some cases it is that confirmation, or not, which could disclose facts which would undermine the investigative process and in such cases North Wales Police takes advantage of its ability under FOI legislation to, where appropriate, neither confirm nor deny that information is or is not held.

Irrespective of what information is or isn't held regarding questions 3&4, any information which could be used to undermine prosecutions or aid offenders is not in the public interest.

Section 31 Law Enforcement

Factors favouring complying with Section 1(1)(a) confirming information is held

Violence against women is an extremely emotive subject, even more so in the current climate following the tragic murder of Sarah Everard. There are lot of protests and campaigning ongoing into this subject as well as a vast amount of journalistic material in the public domain and this in itself favours confirmation or denial. Please see below examples:

[Anmesty International](#)

[End Violence against Women](#)

[BBC News article](#)

Factors against complying with Section 1(1)(a) neither confirming nor denying that information is held

North Wales Police has a duty of care to the community at large and public safety is of paramount importance. If an FOI disclosure reveals information to the world by not adopting an NCND position, this action would compromise the effective delivery of operational law enforcement as detailed in the harm above.

North Wales Police relies on information being supplied by the public. Irrespective of what information is or is not held, by applying substantive exemptions would indicate that information is held and therefore reveal personal information about an individual. Such action would act as a deterrent to the public to provide intelligence to the force and would not be in the public interest.

Balance Test

The points above highlight the merits of confirming or denying that information pertinent to questions 8&9 exists. The Police Service relies heavily on the public and other law enforcement agencies providing information. The public has an expectation that any information they provide will be treated with confidence and in line with the APP Information Management Module. Anything which places that confidence at risk, no matter how generic, would undermine any trust or confidence other agencies and individuals have in the Police Service.

The effective delivery of operational law enforcement takes priority and is at the forefront of North Wales Police to ensure the prevention and detection of crime is carried out and the effective apprehensive or prosecution of offenders is maintained.

Therefore, at this moment in time, it is our opinion that for these issues the balance test for Neither Confirming Nor Denying that information is held for questions 3&4 is appropriate in this case.

Therefore, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under section 17 (1) of the legislation.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 11/11/2024