



Response Date:05/03/2024

2024/254 - femicide

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

Please could you provide us with a list of all female victims of homicide killed between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023 (inclusive) which your authority has been responsible for investigating and, for each victim:

- 1. the date of the homicide;**
- 2. the names of the victims and the accused / perpetrator;**
- 3. the age of the victim;**
- 4. the ethnicity/race of the victim;**
- 5. the relationship between the accused and the victim;**
- 6. the sex of the accused / perpetrator;**
- 7. the ethnicity/race of the perpetrator;**
- 8. if identified, the way in which the victim was killed;**

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

- 9. whether there were any previous reports from the victim (or any third party) regarding the accused / perpetrator; and**
- 10. whether there were any previous reports and / or convictions of any other offences related to violence against women perpetrated by the accused / perpetrator.**

There is only one case of homicide (manslaughter), where the deceased in the case is female recorded during 2023.

However, this case is still under investigation and there are no details of this case in the public domain, therefore harm has been identified in providing you any further information about this case. Therefore, a Public Interest Test has been carried out to weigh up the reasons for and against disclosure of information 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 40(2) Personal Information

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.

Section 40(2) is a class based absolute exemption and there is no requirement to consider the public interest in this case.

Overall Harm

Disclosure of very specific details not in the public domain in relation to ongoing matters would undermine the process of preventing or detecting crime, it could also lead to the identification of individuals.

A release of the information requested could expose policing activity and intelligence. To provide very specific details in relation to the an occurrence would impact on the effectiveness of that police investigation, which would in turn undermine the role of the police in the prevention and detection of crime and apprehension of offenders.

Factors favouring disclosure of information for Section 31

Disclosure could lead to better public awareness of its activities and its resources, which in itself would lead to better public debate and participation and might increase confidence in its approach to crime prevention and detection.

There is also a clear interest in the public being reassured that information which it provides to the police which may point towards the existence of criminal activity is taken seriously and that the police investigate any such matters effectively.

Factors against disclosure of information for Section 31

If North Wales Police released very specific details of ongoing investigations it could prejudice law enforcement or potentially damage the criminal justice system. This is because complying with such requests would enable individuals to become aware of the particular lines of enquiry the police have been investigating (or indeed not investigating) and this could enable individuals engaged in criminal activity to take action to minimise the risk of being detected. Any individuals currently under investigation could also use the information released to attempt to influence the outcome of the investigation, through intimidate or harassment of the witnesses etc.

Therefore, by applying an exemption providing further information would prevent law enforcement resources from being compromised and would retain the Police force's ability to prevent and detect crimes.

Law enforcement tactics may be compromised which would hinder the prevention and detection of crime.

Balance Test

The issues of accountability and transparency are noted. However, there is some information in the public domain and North Wales Police have answer Freedom of Information requests regarding this case. We cannot release further information that would compromise law enforcement role of the force. It is recognised that transparency is the fundamental objective of the Freedom of information Act and this leads itself to a presumption of disclosure. However, this has to be balanced against the harm that would be caused to the ongoing investigation and individuals by providing more/specific investigation details.

Taking into account all the circumstances of this case it is determined that the balance of the public interest favours withholding the information.

Consequently, 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 29/02/2024