



Our Ref: 000801/21

Your Ref:

Address Correspondence to: Information Management

Date 07 April 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information received 09/03/2021.

I note you seek access to the following information:

Please could you provide us with a list of all female victims of homicide killed between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2020 (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. if identified, the way in which the victim was killed;*

Also, if possible we would appreciate the following information.

- 8. whether there were any previous reports from the victim (or any third party) regarding the accused / perpetrator; and*
- 9. 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 8 and 9, please provide information on the first seven points only.

Following receipt of your request, searches were conducted within Leicestershire Police to locate information relevant to your request.

Your request for information has now been considered and the information asked for is as follows: -

9 March 2021 0923hrs

0801-21 Female victims of homicide (2020)

Please provide a list of all female victims of homicide reported in 2020.

Show the following detail for each investigation:

Date of the homicide

Names of the victims and the accused

Age of the victim;

Ethnicity of the victim;

Relationship between the accused and the victim;

Gender of the accused

The method of killing

Whether there were any previous reports from the victim regarding the accused

Whether the accused had any previous reports of violence against women

Leicestershire Police: Homicides in 2020 with a Female Victim (Total Cases = 1)

Date of the homicide	02/03/2020
Name of the victim	Bhavini Pravin
Age of the victim	21
Ethnicity of the victim	Asian
Relationship between the accused and the victim	Fiancee
Name of the accused	Jigukumar Sorthi
Gender of the accused	Male
Age of the accused	23
Ethnicity of the accused	Asian
The method of killing	Stabbing

With reference to Questions 8 & 9

The Leicestershire Police Service can neither confirm nor deny that it holds the information you requested as the duty in s1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply, by virtue of the following exemptions:

s40(5) Personal Information

s30(3) Investigations and

s31(3) Law Enforcement.

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 Leicestershire 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 Leicestershire 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 Leicestershire 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 Leicestershire 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 Leicestershire 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 is not held regarding questions 8 & 9, 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:

[Amnesty International](#)

[End Violence against Women](#)

[BBC News article](#)

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

Leicestershire 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.

Leicestershire 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.

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 Leicestershire 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 8 & 9 is appropriate in this case.

Leicestershire Police provides you the right to ask for a re-examination of your request under its review procedure. Letters should be addressed to Information Manager, Corporate Services Department at the above address. If you decide to request such a review and having followed the Force's full process you are still dissatisfied, then you have the right to direct your comments to the Information Commissioner who will give it consideration.

Freedom of Information Officer
Leicestershire Police

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