

Our Ref: 008035/15



Freedom of Information Section
Nottinghamshire Police HQ
Sherwood Lodge, Arnold
Nottingham NG5 8PP

Tel: 101
Ext 800 2507
Fax: 0115 967 2896

23 November 2015

Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

I write in connection with your request for information, which was received by Nottinghamshire Police on 09/11/2015.

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Nottinghamshire Police to locate the information you require.

RESPONSE

Under S 1 (1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), I can confirm that Nottinghamshire Police does hold the information you have requested.

Please find below answers to your questions:-

I would like to make a Freedom of Information Request. We are interested in learning more about forces' use of restorative approaches for incidents involving domestic violence and abuse.

Specifically, we would like to request the following information:

1) The number of incidents marked or flagged as domestic abuse incidents, recorded by your force between 1st January and 31 December for the year 2014.

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2) Of these incidents, we would like to know the number of incidents that involved the use of restorative justice, and the level of restorative justice employed. Please see Box 1 for the relevant definitions.

Box 1: Definition of Restorative Justice

According to ACPO's (2012) definition of restorative justice, a resolution involving restorative justice requires:

- 1) The offender must take responsibility**
- 2) Involvement of the victim, community or other affected party**
- 3) A structured process that establishes what has occurred and what the impact has been**
- 4) An outcome that seeks to put right the harm that has been caused or an outcome that makes other reparation that may not be directly related to the original case.**

While a restorative justice incident must always involve these principles, there are different types of restorative justice, identified as Level 1, 2, or 3:

Level 1: Refers to an instant or on-street disposal, where police officers or PCSOs use restorative skills in the course of their duties, to resolve conflict in minor crimes and incidents. In Level 1, restorative justice is conducted as an alternative to a formal criminal justice process.

Level 2: Refers to measures such as restorative justice conferences, and may involve more participants, risk assessments and seek longer-term solutions. A Level two restorative justice response can occur either as an alternative to criminal justice proceedings, or in addition to criminal justice proceedings, as part of a formal crime disposal. Level 2 responses take place for incidents not appropriate for Level 1 resolutions, in order to tackle more serious or persistent matters.

Level 3: Refers to resolutions that take place in addition to criminal justice proceedings, mainly post-sentence. They may occur for cases that involve serious, complex or sensitive incidents, or where offenders are being monitored by an offender management team and/or are deemed at risk of continued offending. A Level 3 resolution can be undertaken pre-sentence, but this must in formal conjunction with other services, such as: Probation, the Crown Prosecution Service etc.

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It would be helpful if you could detail the information requested in item 2 into the format of the below tables:

3) Finally, we would like to know a bit more about the characteristics of the partner/ex-partner domestic abuse incidents (so not the family cases) which involved restorative justice - such as the relationship between the victim and offender, the offence type, and the gender of the victim and offender. Ideally, we would like you to fill out these tables with the relevant information about each incident:

Please see tables below:

Relationship between victim and offender	
Family Member ¹	41
Partner or Ex Partner	11

¹ Includes Parent/Legal Guardian

2014: Characteristics of Partner/Ex-Partner Domestic Abuse Incidents involving Restorative Justice							
Ref number	Offence type(s)	Relationship between victim and perpetrator	Gender of Victim	Gender of Perpetrator	Did incident result in other prosecution, alongside RJ?	RJ level	Description of Restorative Approach
E.g. Your case identifier/ anonymous reference	E.g. Criminal damage, harassment	E.g. Partner or ex-partner	M/F	M/F	Yes/no		E.g. Written apology, or agreed to pay for damages
1	COMMON ASSAULT	PARTNER CURRENT/EX	Female	Male	No	1	Apology
2	COMMON ASSAULT	PARTNER CURRENT/EX	Female	Male	No	1	Pay for Damages
3	COMMON ASSAULT	PARTNER CURRENT/EX	Female	Male	No	1	Apology
4	ASSAULT WITH INJURY	PARTNER CURRENT/EX	Male	Female	No	1	Apology
5	COMMON ASSAULT	PARTNER CURRENT/EX	Male	Female	No	1	Apology
6	COMMON ASSAULT	PARTNER CURRENT/EX	Female	Male	No	1	Apology
7	COMMON ASSAULT	PARTNER CURRENT/EX	Male	Female	No	1	Apology
8	COMMON ASSAULT	PARTNER CURRENT/EX	Female	Male	No	1	Apology
9	COMMON ASSAULT	EX PARTNER	Male	Female	No	1	Separated
10	COMMON ASSAULT	PARTNER CURRENT/EX	Male	Female	No	1	Apology
11	HARASSMENT (PROTECTION FROM HARASSMENT)	PARTNER CURRENT/EX	Female	Male	No	1	No Formal Complaint made

² Data has been extracted from our crime recording system which records both domestic incidents (not a crime) and DV crimes

³ Data has been provided in line with the definition of domestic abuse as set out in the Force's current policy.

⁴ Please note: The Force's definition of Domestic Violence changed on 01/04/2013. Family members aged 16 and over are now included (previously 18 and over).

⁵ Data obtained by using RED and reading the Crime Details.

Please Note:- This data has been extracted from a live crime system and may be subject to change

Source:- Performance & Insight 20/11/2015

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 force's response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you may receive.**

Complaints Rights

Your attention is drawn to the enclosed review procedure, which details your right of complaint.

Copyright

Nottinghamshire Police in complying with their statutory duty under Sections 1 and 11 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) to release the enclosed information will not breach the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. However, the rights of the copyright owner of the enclosed information will continue to be protected by law. Applications for the copyright owner's written permission to reproduce any part of the attached information should be addressed to the Force Solicitor, Nottinghamshire Police, Force Headquarters, Sherwood Lodge, Arnold, Nottinghamshire, NG5 8PP.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Nottinghamshire Police.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please write or contact the Freedom of Information Officer on telephone number 0115 9672507 or e-mail freedomofinformation@Nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

Disclosure Officer

Are you dissatisfied with your response?

Nottinghamshire Police has a duty to implement a complaints process in relation to Freedom of Information Act requests. If you are not content with our response, you may appeal, this process is known as an 'Internal Review'

Internal reviews are intended to be a fair and impartial means of reviewing the original request process.

You can appeal about your request if you:-

- Disagree with the Forces interpretation of your request;
- Believe the Force hold more information than has been disclosed to you;
- Disagree with the application of exemptions;

How do I appeal?

All appeals should be made in writing and sent to:-

Information Management
Nottinghamshire Police
Force Headquarters
Sherwood Lodge
Arnold
Notts
NG5 8PP

or alternatively freedomofinformation@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

To deal with your appeal as quickly as possible please provide the unique identification number provided with your response and the reasons for your appeal.

Once we have received your request for appeal, your FOI response will be reviewed in full to identify any problems in the disclosure.

The review will be undertaken by someone different from, and preferably senior to, the original decision maker and this should be completed within 20 working days from receipt, in exceptional circumstances it may be extended by a further 20 working days.

What if I'm still not satisfied?

You can appeal to the Information Commissioner. You can contact the Information Commissioner Office at the following:-

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or 01625 545 745 (national rate)

E-mail: casework@ico.org.uk