

Our Ref: 009088/15



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

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21 January 2016

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 21/12/2015.

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

Please find below answers to your questions:-

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.

Can you please provide me with the following information:

1. Where does the responsibility for victims care sit within your force area?

The responsibility for victim care ultimately sits with the officer dealing with the individual case. The officer may refer the victim to support services if deemed appropriate. There is a process in place for victims to be referred to Victim Support within 48 hours of the report of crime. There are also internal processes and meetings that assess victim needs in cases of serious offences or vulnerability these include the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub. Additional specialist victim support is also available in cases of domestic violence, honour based violence and victims of serious sexual offences, or for other individual cases as appropriate.



2. Who is the portfolio lead for victim of crime services within your force area?

Temporary Chief Inspector Andrew Goodall is the force lead for the Victim Code of Practice.

3. What organisations contribute to your multi-partnership approach to victim of crime care?

Victim Support are the lead agency for victim care in Nottinghamshire. The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub consists of colleagues from the Police, Health, Probation Trust, Schools, Children's Social Care and Adult Safeguarding.

Support for victims of domestic violence is provided by Women's Aid and WAIS. Support for victims of serious sexual violence is provided by Rape Crisis and Equation. Support for victims of honour based abuse is provided by Karma Nirvana. Nottingham City Council Social Care also work closely in relation to victim care. There are numerous other organisations and agencies to which victims can be referred if the individual circumstances require this.

4. Is there a dedicated victims of crime care centre in your force area? If yes, please provide details of the dedicated unit and details of the services provided.

The Topaz Centre is a dedicated Sexual Assault Referral Centre offering advice and support for men, women and children over 13 years old who have experienced rape or sexual assault either recently or some time ago.

The Centre supports clients through a Police reporting process. There are medical suites at The Topaz Centre where doctors advise and examine clients and a Forensic Medical Examination may be completed. If the client has reported to the Police a specially trained officer called a Sexual Offences Liaison Officer (SOLO) will explain the procedure to the client and support them through the process.

Clients are provided with showering facilities and a change of clothes. Advice about screening for sexually acquired infections and pregnancy testing is given and medication may be offered where there is a risk of sexually transmitted infection. Referral to Genito Urinary Medicine (GUM) clinics or other health services and follow up appointments may be arranged for the client.

The team offer appointments to discuss the client's needs and support is offered including practical advice talking through any difficulties clients may be experiencing or talking to the Police on the client's behalf. Support is offered at face to face appointments in various community settings, via the telephone

or via email. Furthermore there are Crisis Support workers who support the client, explaining options and supporting clients to make decisions about their care, and Independent Sexual Violence Advisors, who support and liaise with other services on the client's behalf.

5. Is your victim of crime care service compliant with the European Parliament 2012 Directive 2012/29/EU and the Victims Charter?

The Victim Code of Practice guides and drives victim care in Nottinghamshire- all activity undertaken by officers in supporting victims is underpinned by this code. This code was issued by the Secretary of State for Justice under Section 32 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004. It implements relevant provisions of the EU Directive establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime (2012/29/EU).

Complaints Rights

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

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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