

FOI Disclosures December 2024

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This month we have responded to questions relating to the following topics:

- [Domestic Abuse Investigations](#)
- [Casework Manager Qualifications and Background](#)
- [Investigations related to Domestic Homicide](#)

If you require a full copy of any of the embedded attachments, please contact Requestinfo@policeconduct.gov.uk quoting the reference number from the relevant response.

Ref 5025182 <small>Back to top</small>	<u>Domestic Abuse Investigations</u>
<u>Request</u>	<p><i>Can I please request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act.</i></p> <p>1. <i>In the last three years (March 2021 to latest available date), how many complaints have been recorded by the IOPC where the substantive issue related to allegations of failures in police investigations following victim's complaints of domestic abuse or coercive control?</i></p> <p>a. <i>How many of these complaints resulted in an action being taken?</i></p> <p>b. <i>Of these complaints (handled both 'formally' and 'informally'), what was the time taken to finalise these complaints?</i></p> <p><i>Please break down these figures by year and by police force if possible.</i></p>
<u>Response</u>	<p>Complaints are recorded by police forces in the first instance and statistics are collected from forces by the IOPC for publication in the annual police complaints statistics report. We have used this data to respond to this request.</p> <p>Complaint allegations are recorded under an allegation category to describe the root of the dissatisfaction, with one category per allegation. To provide further contextual information, an allegation can have one or more complaint factors applied to it.</p> <p>Further information regarding allegation categories and complaint factors and how they combine to provide a richer picture of what people are complaining about can be found in the 'Guidance on capturing data about police complaints'. This guidance also includes information on capturing information about findings and actions.</p>

An allegation can be handled informally (known as Outside of Schedule 3) or formally under Schedule 3 of the Police Reform Act by investigation or other reasonable and proportionate handling.

Complaint factors are applied to a complaint at allegation level.

We have applied the closest complaint factors for the circumstances that you describe; however it is important to note that the factors are broad themes that may encompass a number of varied situations including some that do not precisely match the scope of your request. The information we have provided is based on the most relevant complaint factors but should be used for illustrative purposes only. Police forces may be able to interrogate their complaint recording systems to provide further detail that more closely meets the criteria of your request.

The factors used for this request are 'Investigation' and one or more of the factors:

- Domestic/gender abuse
- VAWG – Police perpetrated
- VAWG – Police victim

These factors are defined as follows:

Investigation	This concerns any complaint about a police investigation. It includes: • quality • timeliness • rigour • lines of enquiry
Domestic/gender abuse	This concerns any complaint relating to the police handling of domestic / gender abuse where the victim is an adult. Any complaint concerning child protection matters, including child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation, should not have this factor selected, but should have the 'child protection/CSA/CSE' factor selected. This factor includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safeguarding • domestic violence • honour crimes • stalking • harassment • trafficking • slavery • coercion/control • emotional abuse • financial abuse
VAWG – Police perpetrated	This concerns any complaint matter arising from or relating to a VAWG incident where the alleged perpetrator (of any gender) is a police employee. If a police employee is also the victim, the 'VAWG – police victim' factor should also be selected. The complainant does not have to be the victim of the VAWG incident
VAWG – Police victim	This concerns any complaint arising from or relating to a VAWG incident where the victim is a police employee. If a police employee is also the perpetrator, the 'VAWG – police perpetrated' factor should also be selected. The complainant does not have to be the victim of the VAWG incident, and the perpetrator can be of any gender.

The Home Office definition of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) is: *“The term ‘violence against women and girls’ refers to acts of violence or abuse that we know disproportionately affect women and girls. Crimes and behaviour covered by this term include rape and other sexual offences, domestic abuse, stalking,*

‘honour’-based abuse (including female genital mutilation forced marriage, and ‘honour’ killings), as well as many others, including offences committed online.”

Where ‘Domestic/gender abuse’, ‘VAWG – Police perpetrated’ or ‘VAWG – Police Victim’ are not present, allegations with the ‘VAWG – Dissatisfaction handling’ factor have also been counted (these may have the investigation factor also or not). This factor is defined as follows:

VAWG – Dissatisfaction handling	An expression of dissatisfaction as to the handling of a VAWG case that is expressed by or on behalf of an individual eligible to make a complaint under schedule 3 of the Police Reform Act 2002. The complainant does not have to be the victim of the VAWG incident, and the perpetrator can be of any gender
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This has been done to ensure allegations are not ‘double counted’.

In response to your first question: A total of 25,566 allegations were logged under the above criteria between 1 April 2021 and 30 June 2024.

Year	Number logged
2021/22	6,603
2022/23	7,837
2023/24	8,987
2024/25 (to 30 June 2024)	2,139
Total	25,566

For a breakdown of these figures by police force, please see Table 1

Table 1 - Allegations logged between 1 April 2021 and 30 June 2024

Factors: Investigation AND VAWG - Police perpetrator and/or VAWG Police victim and/
OR
VAWG - Dissatisfaction Handling

Organisation Name	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	Grand Total
Avon And Somerset	249	231	208	83	771
Bedfordshire	32	40	51	5	128
British Transport	20	28	13	1	62
Cambridgeshire	135	115	139	32	421
Cheshire	134	171	173	33	511
City of London	2	0	1	0	3
Cleveland	33	132	218	29	412
Cumbria	49	47	63	23	182
Derbyshire	227	125	162	31	545
Devon And Cornwall	111	115	63	10	299
Dorset	91	235	259	65	650
Durham	62	215	131	29	437
Dyfed-Powys	61	100	111	18	290
Essex	8	143	395	56	602
Gloucestershire	87	72	99	6	264
Greater Manchester	437	609	1502	413	2961
Gwent	47	18	14	1	80
Hampshire	200	192	396	69	857
Hertfordshire	96	129	139	45	409
Humberside	135	143	143	37	458
Kent	196	604	239	66	1105
Lancashire	78	217	198	31	524
Leicestershire	282	269	201	31	783
Lincolnshire	129	81	176	36	422
Merseyside	99	71	61	25	256
Metropolitan	459	693	606	80	1838
Norfolk	112	211	218	72	613
North Wales	93	126	48	0	267
North Yorkshire	170	197	72	6	445
Northamptonshire	96	23	5	8	132
Northumbria	161	201	167	26	555
Nottinghamshire	125	73	35	8	241
South Wales	329	362	527	157	1375
South Yorkshire	213	122	160	39	534
Staffordshire	197	253	294	73	817
Suffolk	56	161	194	44	455
Surrey	224	163	227	80	694
Sussex	65	60	133	57	315
Thames Valley	480	296	179	62	1017
Warwickshire	67	65	31	2	165
West Mercia	40	119	244	71	474
West Midlands	410	473	509	80	1472
West Yorkshire	127	29	52	12	220
Wiltshire	179	108	131	87	505
Grand Total	6603	7837	8987	2139	25566

Actions are logged once a complaint has been finalised. At the time the data was submitted to us, 3,222 of the above allegations were attached to complaints that had not yet been finalised.

<p>Ref <u>5025191</u> Back to top</p>	<p><u>IOPC Casework Manager qualifications and background</u></p>
<p><u>Request</u></p>	<p><i>Please provide the qualifications and career background of a specific casework manager.</i></p>
<p><u>Response</u></p>	<p>The IOPC holds information about the career background and qualifications of casework managers, including information from which we would be able to confirm whether or not they had previously worked for the police. We have decided, however, that our FOIA duty of disclosure does not apply to this information because it engages the exemption under section 40(2), which relates to personal information of a living individual other than the requester.</p> <p>In particular we have noted that there is greater expectation of privacy on the part of less senior staff, such as IOPC Casework Managers.</p> <p>This is because they would not in general expect their posts to carry a level of accountability that would require the disclosure of significant personal details about themselves. It is also relevant that our Casework Managers do not occupy a public facing role in the sense of carrying responsibility for explaining the policies or actions of the public authority to the outside world, as would be the case for a member of the IOPC’s senior management team.</p> <p>Consequently, we have concluded that the release of these personal details under the FOIA would be contrary to the casework manager’s reasonable expectations and would be inherently unfair. It may have been possible to justify the release of this information if it was likely that their decision making was affected by their background and there were no measures in place to mitigate the risk of any bias or other deficiency on the part of IOPC employees. Our recruitment process relies on evidence of merit and appropriate skills and the performance of staff is regularly monitored and reviewed in accordance with our performance and development review process. Any shortcomings in performance or conduct are addressed by managers under our policies relating to capability and conduct. The IOPC therefore has confidence in its staff being able to carry out their work to the required standard.</p> <p>We conclude that your request does not identify a necessary justification for disclosure after taking into account our procedures and practice in relation to recruitment, performance management and staff development.</p> <p>Although we are refusing to release information about the career background of a named individual for the reasons stated above, we recognise the public interest in knowing how many of our staff that have previously worked for the police.</p> <p>Consequently, we regularly publish statistical information regarding the background of our staff on our website. The latest available information can be found in the data tables indicated by the five tabs shaded green (“ex-police historic figures” etc.) in the 2022/23 Diversity data on our website. In</p>

	<p>relation to the qualifications of IOPC Casework Managers generally, our most recent job adverts include the following person specification:</p> <p>Essential Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant experience, of complaints handling or of dealing with a direct service to the public where contentious and difficult issues have to be dealt with sensitively. • Evidence of well-developed critical thinking skills; able to gather and use information to carry out enquiries and form sound judgements. • Evidence of strong oral and particularly written communication skills, backed up with good computer literacy. • Proven ability to show initiative and contribute in a changing environment. <p>Information about Casework Manager training and development is also relevant to your request. There are two elements to Casework Manager training: induction training (for new starters) and continuous professional development (CPD) for all staff. Attached is a document which contains the headline areas for both. The CPD framework sets out the key competencies casework managers are expected to meet. Casework managers rate themselves against the competencies, discuss the results with their managers in one-to-ones and are provided with access to additional development where it is needed. There are other competencies which relate to “soft” skills, such as being organised, responsive, ethical, persuasive etc.</p>
<p><u>Ref</u> <u>5025218</u> Back to top</p>	<p><u>Investigations related to Domestic Homicide</u></p>
<p><u>Request</u></p>	<p><i>My request relates to investigations by the IOPC into failings to prevent domestic homicides.</i></p> <p><i>Please note there is one part to my request, although my question one does contain multiple sub-clauses.</i></p> <p><i>(1)</i> <i>Between 1 January 2019 and 20 November 2024, how many times has the IOPC launched an investigation into a police force or serving police officers when the investigation has been related to a domestic homicide?</i></p> <p><i>Please also include investigations which have been triggered after a police force has referred themselves to the IOPC, following a domestic homicide.</i></p> <p><i>For each investigation, please can you confirm</i></p> <p><i>1a. The police force</i> <i>1b. The offence investigated, e.g. police misconduct</i> <i>1c. The IOPC decision</i> <i>1d. Any sanctions imposed on the police force/officer</i></p>

Response

The IOPC investigations listed in these tables have been identified from the data collected by our research team for the purposes of our annual [Deaths during or following police contact reports](#). The data used for this request covers deaths in or following police contact that occurred between 2018/19 and 2023/24. We record the financial year within which the date of death occurred. The data included in this dataset is taken from deaths that occurred from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2024. We have not considered more recent deaths as these cases are still in the process of being verified and checked.

The IOPC reports annually, on a financial year basis, on deaths within the category 'other deaths during or following police contact'. These deaths are all, by definition, subject to an independent investigation. The number of cases recorded in this category is therefore linked to the number of cases independently investigated although some cases may relate to more than one death, meaning that the number of investigations may be fewer than the number of deaths.

Within the deaths category 'other deaths following police contact', the deaths are further grouped based on the reason for contact with the police prior to their death and the most relevant group for your request is 'Concern for welfare - domestic-related'. The definition of reason for contact type 'Concern for welfare – domestic-related' often includes cases involving a history of domestic violence that the police are already aware of. Threats may be made directly or indirectly against the deceased and/or associated family members and the deceased or a third party has reported this or raised concerns about their safety to the police. In the majority of instances, these deaths will be alleged murders committed by an interested party in the case who is the deceased's partner, ex-partner, sibling, parent, or an extended family member. Any apparent suicides of the perpetrator that follows an alleged or attempted murder are also included in the statistics within this category.

One of the fields we collect data on is the classification of the death and the most relevant classification for your request is 'alleged murder'. We also collect demographic data, so we were able to further refine the data down to domestic related deaths that were alleged murders and provide the breakdown by gender.

As per our definition, domestic-related incidents may include those between family members, such as incidents involving parents and their children.

The classification of a death is based on the information available at the time of reporting, and we can only report on whether a murder was alleged at this time. Whether a death was the result of a murder can only be determined by the courts.

Over the last five years, between 2018/19 and 2023/24, 86 individuals died following police contact that were classed as domestic-related and involved an alleged murder. Of those, 16 were male and 70 were female.

As requested, we have also included information about the force involved. This is the police force who was the 'Appropriate Authority' in the case and refers to the force in which officers involved in the incident are employed, not necessarily where the incident occurred.

In line with our annual reports on [Outcomes following IOPC independent investigations](#) the attached tables include data on outcomes at the level of the

individual officer or member of police staff whose conduct was investigated (the investigation 'subject'). Only some of these deaths gave rise to an investigation into the conduct of police officers or staff members.

Caveats & Notes

Data is for illustrative purposes only.

This information is taken from live data and as such may differ from previously published data & statistics. Investigations reporting and statistic only counts lead cases.

An independent investigation is counted as completed on the date when the final report is approved.

The appropriate authority, as well as other case attributes, is dependent on accurate data recording in our Case Management System by operational teams.

Information about Sheets Contained in this Document

'Subjects List' is a list of subjects, containing each one's case to answer decision and, in the case of a finding of no case to answer, whether any further action was taken.

'No Subjects' is a list of cases where either 1) no person was investigated for misconduct or criminal allegations or 2) the case is still open, and thus any number of individuals under investigation could change.

In summary:

- 55 cases did not involve the investigation of criminal or misconduct matters
- 29 cases involved a conduct matter, covering 36 individual subjects
- Of these 36 subjects:
 - 3 had a finding of gross misconduct
 - 9 had a finding of misconduct
 - 23 had a finding of no case to answer ('CTA'), of which 12 had some kind of further action such as a Reflective practice review process (RPRP), Unsatisfactory performance procedure (UPP), or Management Action.

Financial Year	Calendar year	Case ID	Force	Gender	Subject	Conduct	CTA Level	Further Action, if No CTA
2018/19	2018	A	Metropolitan	Female	1	Yes	No CTA	Yes
2018/19	2018	B	West Midlands	Female	1	Yes	No CTA	
2018/19	2018	B	West Midlands	Female	2	Yes	No CTA	
2018/19	2018	C	Cleveland	Female	1	Yes	No CTA	Yes
2018/19	2018	D	Kent	Female	1	Yes	No CTA	Yes
2018/19	2019	E	Surrey & Metropolitan	Female	1	Yes	Misconduct	
2019/20	2019	F	Hampshire & Dorset	Female	1	Yes	No CTA	Yes
2019/20	2019	G	Derbyshire	Male	1	Yes	Misconduct	
2019/20	2019	G	Derbyshire	Male	2	Yes	Misconduct	
2019/20	2019	G	Derbyshire	Male	3	Yes	No CTA	Yes
2019/20	2019	H	Essex	Female	1	Yes	Gross Misconduct	
2019/20	2019	I	West Yorkshire	Female	1	Yes	No CTA	Yes
2018/19	2019	J	North Yorkshire & West Yorkshire	Female	1	Yes	No CTA	
2019/20	2020	K	Derbyshire	Male	1	Yes	No CTA	Yes
2019/20	2020	K	Derbyshire	Female	2	Yes	No CTA	Yes
2019/20	2020	L	Suffolk	Female	1	Yes	No CTA	
2020/21	2020	M	Metropolitan	Female	1	Yes	Gross Misconduct	
2020/21	2020	N	South Wales	Female	1	Yes	No CTA	No
2020/21	2021	O	Hertfordshire	Female	1	Yes	Gross Misconduct	
2020/21	2021	P	Staffordshire	Female	1	Yes	Misconduct	
2021/22	2021	Q	Metropolitan	Female	1	Yes	No CTA	Yes
2021/22	2021	R	Metropolitan	Female	1	Yes	No CTA	
2021/22	2021	S	Gloucestershire	Female	1	Yes	Misconduct	
2021/22	2021	T	Nottinghamshire	Female	1	Yes	No CTA	
2021/22	2021	U	Derbyshire	Female	1	Yes	Misconduct	
2021/22	2021	V	Metropolitan	Female	1	Yes	No CTA	
2021/22	2021	W	Norfolk	Female	1	Yes	No CTA	
2021/22	2022	X	Gloucestershire	Female	1	Yes	No CTA	Yes
2021/22	2022	X	Gloucestershire	Female	2	Yes	Misconduct	
2022/23	2022	Y	Staffordshire	Female	1	Yes	No CTA	No
2022/23	2023	Z	Humberside	Female	1	Yes	No CTA	Yes
2022/23	2023	Z	Humberside	Female	2	Yes	No CTA	Yes
2023/24	2023	AA	Metropolitan	Female	1	Yes	No CTA	No
2023/24	2023	AB	Suffolk	Female	1	Decision awaited.		
2023/24	2023	AC	Hampshire	Female	1	Yes	Misconduct	
2023/24	2023	AC	Hampshire	Female	2	Yes	Misconduct	

Case ID (A)	Force	Gender	Conduct Investigation
A	West Midlands	Male	No
B	North Wales	Male	Still Open
C	Gwent	Female	Still Open
D	West Mercia	Male	Still Open
E	Lancashire	Female	Still Open
F	Avon & Somerset	Female	Still Open
G	Norfolk	Female	Still Open
H	West Yorkshire	Female	No
I	Devon & Cornwall	Female	No
J	West Midlands	Male	No
K	Derbyshire	Male	No
L	Metropolitan	Male	No
M	Greater Manchester	Male	No
N	Sussex	Female	No
O	Sussex	Male	No
P	Greater Manchester	Male	No
Q	Metropolitan	Male	No
R	Humberside	Female	No
S	South Wales	Male	No
T	Kent	Male	No
U	Merseyside	Male	No
V	Cheshire	Female	No
W	Essex	Female	No
X	South Wales	Female	No
Y	Dorset	Female	No
Z	Greater Manchester	Female	No
AA	Northumbria	Female	No
AB	Merseyside	Female	No
AC	Greater Manchester	Female	No

AD	South Wales	Female	No
AE	Greater Manchester	Female	No
AF	Greater Manchester & Ches	Female	No
AG	South Yorkshire	Female	No
AH	West Yorkshire	Female	No
AI	Greater Manchester	Female	No
AJ	Merseyside	Female	No
AK	South Yorkshire	Female	No
AL	Metropolitan	Female	No
AM	Cumbria	Female	No
AN	West Yorkshire	Female	No
AO	Metropolitan	Female	No
AP	Metropolitan	Female	No
AQ	Kent	Female	No
AR	Greater Manchester	Female	No
AS	West Yorkshire	Female	No
AT	Dorset	Female	No
AU	Avon & Somerset	Female	No
AV	West Midlands	Female	No
AW	Greater Manchester	Female	No
AX	Metropolitan	Female	No
AY	West Yorkshire	Female	No
AZ	West Yorkshire	Female	No
BA	Durham	Female	No
BB	Gloucestershire	Female	No
BC	Devon & Cornwall	Female	No

For the definitions of RPRP and UPP, please see the glossary of terms in our most recent [Annual police complaint statistics report](#). Information about how we report on investigation outcomes, including CTA decisions is available in our [most recent outcomes report](#)