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Our Ref: FOI2019/03754

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2019/03754

I write in connection with your request for information received on 10th June. I note you seek access to the following information:

I am hoping to gain responses to the following in relation to Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual victims of intimate partner violence:

- 1) **Does your organisation provide a specific LGB domestic abuse service/support for victims of intimate partner violence that identify as being non heterosexual? (for example, if your organisation utilises independent domestic violence advisors, do you provide a specific non heterosexual IDVA) If yes, upon what basis was the decision made to provide sexual orientation specific victim support?**
- 2) **Do you collect victim's feedback (for example, the victim satisfaction survey) specifically from the LGB victim groups of intimate partner violence?**
- 3) **Is your response (safeguarding, vulnerability assessment etc) different at any stage for non-heterosexual victims of intimate partner violence from heterosexual victims?**
- 4) **Have you done any domestic abuse communication campaigns specific to non-heterosexual victims of intimate Partner Violence?**
- 5) **(If obtainable within the 18 hour time frame) could you please inform me of the recorded volume of non-heterosexual victims of intimate partner violence from the past 2 years, compared to heterosexual volumes?**
- 6) **Have you been part of any work/research that has looked into whether LGB victims of intimate partner violence require a different policing response to non-heterosexual victims?**

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (The Act) to handle all requests in a manner that is blind to the identity of the requestor. Any information released in response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore, in the public domain without caveat.

RESPONSE - Following enquiries within the Force please see our response below.

- 1) The IDVA service are not commissioned or employed by the Police and are independent. We have a number of LAGLO officers specially trained to have awareness of specific issues when dealing with LGBT victims and we also have a Victim Engagement officer who specialises in this area. They would be utilised if it was felt that specific issues were due to this, as they may be able to gain the trust of the victim but there is not a non-heterosexual option, as each victim will be dealt with for what they individually need which will not necessarily be anything to do with their sexual preference.
- 2) All victims are treated equally, so if they have reported a crime, then they will form part of the survey but will not have bespoke questions directed at them due to their sexual preference.;
- 3) No, unless as stated above, it is felt that there is a specific requirement that would assist the individual or the investigation.

- 4) The month of August is a concentration on 'under reporting areas' which would include this. It will raise awareness, provide pathways and Bedfordshire Police will be speaking with people to develop how we can do better.
- 5) This is only captured / recorded if the victim makes the recording person aware. The question is not specifically asked so data may be incorrect.
- 6) Bedfordshire Police are always actively working with partners and other forces across the country into the best response we can give to differing communities.

The numerical data presented in this response is an un-audited snapshot of un-published data sourced from "live" systems and is subject to the interpretation of the original request by the individual extracting the data.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter please do not hesitate to contact me quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

Gary Maxey
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Bedfordshire Police provides you the right to request an independent review of this response under its review procedure. If you require such a review you must notify us within two months from the date of this letter. After lodging a complaint with Bedfordshire Police if you are still dissatisfied with the decision you may make an application to the Information Commissioner. For information on how to make a complaint please visit their website at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/> or contact them on 0303 123 1113.