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29th April 2019

Our Ref: FOI2019/02150

Dear Requestor

**REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2019/02150**

I write in connection with your request for information received on 28th March. I note you seek access to the following information:

**Under the Freedom of Information Act, please may I request the details of all homicide offences (murder and manslaughter) recorded by the force where the victim is aged 16 and under, and where the offender has been identified as a parent.**

**Please could I have the details of the case (ie the date and location of the offence, the age of the victim, the name and age of the offender, the relationship between the two, and the circumstances of the case), between January 1 2014 and December 31 2018, inclusive.**

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 – Bedfordshire Police has conducted a search of our crime recording system for offences meeting the criteria above. Please see the tables below:**

Recorded Crime – Homicide Victim Under 16 2014 - 2018 VICTIMS AGE				
	2014	2015	2016	Grand Total
VICTIMS AGE	Mar	Nov	Jan	
0	1			1
1		1	1	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>

Recorded Crime - Homicide - Victim Under 16 2014 - 2018				
	2014	2015	2016	Grand Total
OFFENDER TO VICTIM RELATIONSHIP/ OFFENDERS AGE / TOWN	Mar	Nov	Jan	
FATHER	1		1	2
21				

DUNSTABLE			1	1
<b>31</b>				
LUTON	1			1
<b>MOTHER</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>21</b>				
LUTON		1		1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>

Any further information held by Bedfordshire Police in relation to this request is exempt under the following exemption:

**Section 30(1)(a)(b) Investigations**

The Section 30 exemption is a class based qualified exemption.

This means that the legislators when writing the legislation considered that the release of such information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 would cause harm to the public authority or individual concerned. There is therefore no requirement to carry out a HARM Test in respect of such information. However there is a requirement to carry out a Public Interest Test in order to establish whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption may be outweighed by a wider public benefit in disclosure.

**Public Interest Considerations:**

S30 - Factors favouring confirming that information is held:

Providing information relevant to this request would lead to a better informed public, improving their knowledge and understanding of how the Police service respond and deal with such types of investigation. Public confidence would be maintained and the public may be encouraged to assist more readily with such investigations.

S30 Factors against confirming or denying that information is held:

Any information generated by an investigation, particularly in these circumstances needs to be treated with sensitivity. In some cases providing information which could disclose facts which would prejudice the evidence gathering within an investigation. In addition, the police service would not disclose information which could identify investigative activity, and subsequently undermine those processes. To do so would hinder the prevention or detection of crime.

**S30 Public Interest Test**

Whilst providing information would reassure the public, including information as to how public funds are spent, confirming details of any investigation would compromise that investigative process.

Anything which would jeopardise future court proceedings would not be disclosed prior by Bedfordshire Police, as to do so would undermine police investigations and hinder the prevention and detection of crime. It would not therefore be in the public interest to reveal that such investigations are being undertaken.

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  
Information Rights

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.