

REQUEST

Would it be possible to disclose the following information - for the calendar years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022?

1. How many requests for a disclosure were made to your force under the "Right to Ask" during the years stated above? Can you please include the gender of the person making the request if it was given?

2022- 1808 Requests - 1730 female / 67 male / 11 not recorded.

2. Can you please break down as a percentage – the time it took to process the 'Right to Ask' disclosure requests: a) 0-20 days, b) 21-35 days and c) 36+ days

We do not hold percentages in the format specified and under FOI there is no obligation to create data. However, to assist I can advise the following -

The Home Office Guidelines stipulate that disclosure should be provided within 35 days of initial application. In relation to Right to Ask applications the average time taken to provide disclosure_(this does not include cases where no disclosure was provided) was 25 days.

3. Can you please provide me with the longest period of time it took to process a 'Right to Ask' application (from request to disclosure / outcome) during the years stated above?

2022- There are several reasons why it may take longer than the guideline time of 35 days to complete an application e.g. difficulties contacting the applicant or person at risk, length of time taken to obtain additional information from other forces or other countries, complexities with the person at risk and methods of disclosure, human error etc.

As stated above the average time taken to provide disclosure in 2022 for Right to Ask applications was well below the 35 days.

The longest time period to process an application was 139 days. In relation to this particular application an error occurred which meant the application was not sent electronically to the correct team to process and therefore it was initially missed. When this was identified, service recovery was put in place and the application completed immediately

4. How many requests for disclosures were made to your force under the 'Right to Know' during this time period? Can you please reveal which gender the right to know request relates to?

It is important to note that there are two entry routes into the scheme:

Right to ask where the person at risk or a third party on their behalf (concerned relative, friend, professional) applies to the police for information

Right to know where we as the Police identify that a person maybe at risk and we proactively generate a disclosure schedule and approach the person at risk to offer this With both routes we as WMP approach this in a similar way. When we file for data purposes we then differentiate between the two different elements of the scheme.

WMP made 425 Right to Know applications in 2022. WMP are currently working to increase the use of the Right to Know scheme and monthly data now shows that approximately 30% of all applications are Right to Know which is a large increase compared with the first quarter of 2022. We intend to continue increasing the use of this scheme.

Gender of the person at risk was recorded for 382 of the 425 applications and was 369 females and 9 males.

5.Can you please break down as a percentage – the time it took process these 'Right to Know' disclosure requests: : a) 0-20 days, b) 21-35 days and c) 36+ days

We do not hold percentages in the format specified and under FOI there is no obligation to create data. However, to assist I can advise the following -

The Home Office Guidelines stipulate that disclosure should be provided within 35 days of initial application. In relation to Right to Know applications the average time taken to provide disclosure_(this does not include cases where no disclosure was provided) was 22 days

6.Can you please provide me with the longest period of time it took to process a 'Right to Know' application (from request to disclosure / outcome) during the years stated above?

2022 - There are several reasons why it may take longer than the guideline time of 35 days to complete an application e.g. difficulties contacting the applicant or person at risk, length of time taken to obtain additional information from other forces or other countries, complexities with the person at risk and methods of disclosure, human error etc. As stated above the average time taken to provide disclosure in 2022 for Right to Know applications was well below the 35 days in the guidance at 22 days, however there are outliers which far exceeded this time frame. The longest time period to process an application was 183 days. This was because we were unable to make successful contact with the person at risk.