

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 671

Questions:

1. For each of the past five years (including 2017 to date), please provide a list of the local groups to receive funding from the PCC/Mayor/Authority for the provision of support to victims of rape and sexual assault; together with the amount of money provided.
2. Has the PCC/Mayor/Authority given any consideration to any waiting lists for rape and sexual violence support, and how such waiting lists can be mitigated against. If so, please provide details.

Answers:

1. As the information regarding the local groups that have received funding from the PCC (no information is held for the Mayor/Authority) for the provision of support to victims of rape and sexual assault, with the amount of money provided, is already published on the PCC's website then there is no obligation for the PCC's office to supply the information you have requested.

The exemption applicable to this information is Section 21: Information reasonably accessible by other means. This is an absolute and class based exemption and as such does not require a harm and public interest test.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, this reply represents a Refusal Notice for your request.

However, to assist in your ease of reference, information relating to PCC expenditure on support services, including for the provision of support to victims of rape and sexual assault, can be found on the PCC's website. This includes:

- The Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)
- The Independent Sexual Violence Advisor Service (ISVAs)
- Grants awarded from the Community Safety Grant/Police and Crime Grant
- Grants awarded from the Commissioner's Community Action Fund
- Grants awarded from the Child Sexual Abuse Fund.

<http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Partnerships/Victim-Services.aspx>

<http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/ARCHIVE-2012-April-2016/Partnerships-2012-April-2016/Community-Safety-Grant/Grants-awarded-by-the-PCC.aspx>

<http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Partnerships/Projects-supported-by-the-Fund.aspx>

2. The information requested is not recorded. Please note that the scope of the Freedom of Information Act is limited to recorded information held at the time of the request. There is no requirement on an organisation to create new information in response to a request. Therefore, this letter represents a Refusal Notice.

To assist you further, the PCC is aware of waiting times for therapeutic services given the small number we contribute towards via grants and PCC partnership work with the sector. There are a number of commissioners responsible for the provision of these services and the PCC works collaboratively with NHS England as well as local authorities. More recently the PCC has been exploring opportunities to work with Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) who according to NHS England specification 30 for SARCs <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/service-spec-30.pdf> are responsible for therapeutic care as part of an integrated sexual assault pathway. You may be interested to see the current engagement on SARC services <http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/News-and-Events/News-Archive/2017/June/Improving-care-for-victims-and-survivors-of-sexual-assault.aspx> for the south west.

In addition to this information, Avon and Somerset Police may be able to answer your enquiry with information held by the Constabulary. I am aware that you have already submitted an FOI request to Avon and Somerset Constabulary.