

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 674

Questions:

For each financial year 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17 (if possible. If not then please provide for calendar year):

1. How much was spent by the PPC on services for:
 - a. Victim's services
 - b. Sexual violence/ domestic violence
2. Broken down by year, please provide details of the types of sexual violence/ domestic violence programmes that were funded- e.g. refuge shelters, counselling, work with male perpetrators

Answers:

1. As the information regarding how much was spent by the PCC on services for victims services including for sexual violence/domestic violence is already published on the PCC's website from November 2012 to 31 March 2017 (the end of financial year 2016/17) 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 victim support services including for the provision of support to victims of domestic and sexual abuse can be found on the PCC's website. This includes:

- The Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) <http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Partnerships/Victim-Services.aspx> – plus see Community Safety Grants for period up to 15/16. Note this does not include the Forensic Medical Contract which is held separately by the Constabulary.
- The Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) Service <http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Partnerships/Victim-Services.aspx> – plus see Community Safety Grants for the period up to 14/15, after which a 3+1 contract was put in place. There is also a separate CSA grant contribution to this service (see below).
- West of England Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Victim Identification and Support Service <http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Partnerships/Victim-Services.aspx>
- The Lighthouse Service <http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Partnerships/Victim-Services.aspx> is for all victims who are eligible for enhanced support under the Victims Code of Practice. This therefore includes victims of domestic and sexual abuse.

- Grants awarded from the Community Safety Grant/Police and Crime Grant (Term 1; Term 2 <http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/ARCHIVE-2012-April-2016/Partnerships-2012-April-2016/Community-Safety-Grant/Grants-awarded-by-the-PCC.aspx>)
- Grants awarded from the Commissioner's Community Action Fund <http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Partnerships/Projects-supported-by-the-Fund.aspx>
- Grants awarded from the Child Sexual Abuse Fund <http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Partnerships/Victim-Services.aspx> . (devolved from the Home Office to the PCC in 2016/17)

It should be noted that a number of other services support victims of domestic and sexual abuse as agreed within local care pathways, for example Victim Support and AVoice. Moreover, other commissioners such as the Ministry of Justice, Local Authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups commission specialist services for these victims.

Details of support services in Avon and Somerset can be found online at: Lighthouse <https://www.lighthousevictimcare.org/support-services/> Survivor Pathways <http://www.survivorpathway.org.uk/>

2. The information requested is not recorded for each financial year 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12 as the PCC was first elected in November 2012. 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 reiterate answer 1: As the information regarding the details known of the types of sexual violence/domestic violence programmes that were funded is already published on the PCC's website from November 2012 to 31 March 2017 (the end of financial year 2016/17) 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.