



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Freedom of Information Request Reference No:

I note you seek access to the following information:

Can you provide a list of all unsolved murders investigated by your Force?
Please include the date the crime was recorded and the last outcome category given.

DECISION

I have today decided to disclose some of the requested information. Some data has been withheld as it is exempt from disclosure and therefore this response serves as a Refusal Notice under Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

REASONS FOR DECISION

Having located and considered the relevant information, I am afraid that I am not required by statute to release some of the information requested. This response serves as a Refusal Notice under Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

This information has therefore been fully exempted pursuant to the provision of **Section 40(2)(3) – Personal Information** of the Act.

Section 40(2)(3) & (4) of the Act states that information should be exempt if the question asked constitutes a request for personal information which is not the requestors.

Information in relation to the specific dates of these incidents will not be disclosed, the reason for this is that if we were to supply these dates then it may be possible to identify the individual involved in the incidents and therefore it may be possible to then identify family members of the victim.

If the MPS were to release the specific dates and this caused a member of the victim's family to be identified, this would be in breach of the first principle of the Data Protection Act, Lawful and Fair.

DISCLOSURE

Please find attached the data in relation to your request.

The Met has a robust and comprehensive review process for all homicide investigations.

If unsolved after 28 days, a homicide investigation is independently reviewed by specialist officers from the Met's Serious Crime Review Group.

These reviews not only provide important assurance, but are intended to support Senior Investigating Officers (SIOs) progress investigations by providing independent assessment of all lines of inquiry.

No unsolved murder case is ever closed. Where all reasonable lines of inquiry have been progressed and a case remains unsolved, it is formally presented to a dedicated panel chaired by a Commander. The panel makes a decision whether the investigation should be put on hold.

If put on hold, the investigation is then subject to a review every two years by the Serious Crime Review Group. This review aims to identify any new investigative opportunities or development in techniques, including forensics, or if any new information has emerged.

Detective Chief Superintendent Richard Wood, Head of the Met's Homicide and Major Crime Command, said: "One murder is one too many. Our detectives are working 24/7 using all resources available to them to catch those responsible for any murder.

"We prioritise resources to investigate homicides, and work closely with the CPS to bring offenders to justice and support families at the most difficult of times.

"There is a huge amount of work taking place on unsolved murders. There are between 15-20 cases subject to a full cold case review at any one time.

"Behind every unsolved murder there is a family looking for answers. We are committed to doing all we can to solve these cases.

"Through 24-month reviews we look to see if anything new has emerged, whether it be information, forensic evidence, or changed allegiances. If new information or evidence comes to light, we will assess this and progress any viable lines of inquiry.

I would like to thank you for your interest in the MPS.

Information Rights Unit

Undetected Murders Metropolitan Police 1997 to 2018

Protective Marking	OFFICIAL
Suitable for Publication Scheme	YES
Ad-Hoc Reference Number	14819
FOIA/MOPAC Ref Number	FOIA
Summary	Unsolved murders
Creating Branch / Directorate	MethHQ - Information and Insight
Date Created	12/02/2019
Review Date	12/02/2019

This report uses LIVE DATA extracted from: CRIS MIS

12/02/2019

Police forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide crime statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the crime data. It should be noted that for these reasons this force's response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you may receive.

Notes:

The attached data has been extracted from CRIS.

The data consists of crimes with the current classification as Murder and the status of the crime as undetected.

Please note the following caveats with this data:

The clients request was for the number of murders which are unsolved in the Metropolitan Police Area. Including current outcome.

The attached data has been produced in line with Home Office counting rules. Murder is a victim based crime and as such the count must be based on victim numbers. For clarification the total number of murder enquiries with the current status showing undetected is 388 however the victim count is 393, this is due to a few enquiries having more than one victim, therefore the total count seen in the data will be 393.

Main Caveats:

Although the client has not specified a date parameter it is important to note that we can only provided details of Murders from 1997 when our systems were computerised. The term unsolved is not a term used we can only provide data on crime with a current status shown as undetected. In terms of current outcomes this additional code only become a compulsory field in Nov 2014. As expected for an undetected murder enquiry it was unlikely to produce a high volume of crimes with an outcome code, only 1 record is showing an entry in that field.

Classification**Murder**

Row Labels	Count of Crime Current Status Undetected
1997	21
1998	18
1999	20
2000	25
2001	33
2002	32
2003	26
2004	12
2005	18
2006	20
2007	22
2008	13
2009	8
2010	13
2011	5
2012	6
2013	6
2014	4
2015	9
2016	13
2017	34
2018	35
Grand Total	393