

Contact: Freedom of Information
 Direct Telephone: 0300 122 8752
 Extension: 68752
 Email: FOI@derbyshire.police.uk
 Our reference: 01/FOI/25/007460/T
 Your reference:
 Date: 23/09/2025

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST - REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/007460/T

I write in connection with your request for information which was received by Derbyshire Constabulary on 04/09/2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

I would like to request a copy of your policies on Family Liaison Officers, in particular, in relation to their deployment in the case of families bereaved by suicide.

I would be grateful if you could answer the following questions:

1. *What guidance do you follow for the deployment of family liaison officers?*
 - (a) *National Police Chiefs Council found here: Working with victims and witnesses | College of Policing*
 - (b) *Your own guidance or policies, if so, please may you provide a copy*
 - (c) *Other, please detail what these are*
2. *Does your guidance allow for the deployment of Family Liaison Officer's in the case of families bereaved by suicide?*
 - (a) *Yes, if so, please detail the requirement for deployment*
 - (b) *No, if not please detail the reason for this*

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request, searches were conducted within Derbyshire Constabulary to locate any relevant information. The searches located information relevant to your request.

Decision

I have today decided to disclose the located information to you in full.

Question 1 –

Information held

We follow the national guidance for the deployment of family liaison officers which currently defines the criteria for deployment as:

Derbyshire Constabulary, Headquarters, Butterley Hall, Ripley, Derbyshire, DE5 3RS
 Incoming telephone calls and communications may be monitored and recorded

Making Derbyshire Safer Together

Telephone 101 | Text Relay 18001 101 | www.derbyshire.police.uk



Homicide
 Fatal road traffic collisions
 Mass fatalities
 Rail fatalities
 Critical incidents where family liaison might enhance the effectiveness of the police response.

Please see below guidance for further information on this issuer.

[Working with victims and witnesses | College of Policing](#)

Question 2 –

Information held.

There is currently flexibility within the ‘critical incident’ criteria to deploy Family Liaison Officers (FLOs) to support families bereaved by suicide, if considered necessary. However, this is not standard practice and such deployments are rare.

National work is underway to update the criteria for FLO deployment. The proposed definition would include:

“Unexpected deaths under investigation where family liaison could enhance the police response. Each case should be assessed individually. Before deploying an FLO, discussions should take place with the Senior Investigation Officer/Lead Investigator and Family Liaison Coordinator to agree the remit, aims, and objectives.”

This updated definition would potentially cover suicides, SUDIs, and similar cases, but FLO deployment would continue to be decided on a case-by-case basis, rather than as a routine response.

Right to Request a Review (Complaint)

Your attention is drawn to the attached sheet, which details your right of complaint.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Derbyshire Constabulary.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please write or contact the Freedom of Information Officer, on the above telephone number quoting the reference number in the header.

Yours sincerely
 Freedom of Information Officer

COMPLAINT RIGHTS and COPYRIGHT ISSUES

If you are unhappy with how your request has been handled or you do not think the decision is correct, you have the right to require the Derbyshire Constabulary to review their decision. Prior to lodging a formal complaint you are welcome and encouraged to discuss the decision with the case officer that dealt with your request.

Ask to have the decision looked at again

The quickest and easiest way to have the decision looked at again is to telephone the case officer that is nominated at the end of your decision letter. That person will be able to discuss the decision, explain any issues and assist with any problems.

Complaint

If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or the decision that Derbyshire Constabulary have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) regarding access to information, you can lodge a complaint with the Derbyshire Constabulary to have the decision reviewed. **However, this request must be made within 40 working days from the date of our response.**

Complaints should be made in writing and addressed to **Freedom of Information Officer, Derbyshire Police Headquarters, Butterley Hall, RIPLEY, Derbyshire, DE5 3RS** or via email at foi@derbyshire.police.uk

Where possible the Derbyshire Constabulary will aim to respond to your complaint within 20 working days. However, meeting this time scale will depend upon the circumstances and complexity of the issue.

The Information Commissioner

After lodging a complaint with the Derbyshire Constabulary, if you are still dissatisfied with the decision, you may make an application to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make an application to the Information Commissioner please visit their website at www.ico.org.uk . Alternatively, telephone or write to: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF - Telephone: 0303 123 1113.

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