

January 2026 Disclosure log

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This month we have responded to questions relating to the following topics:

- Referrals relating to sexual harassment, assault or stalking
- Deaths following police contact where alcohol and drugs was a factor
- Blocked and restricted websites on IOPC systems

If you require a full copy of any of the embedded attachments, please contact requestinfo@policeconduct.gov.uk quoting the reference number from the relevant response

Ref 5025937	Referrals relating to sexual harassment, assault or stalking
<p>Please provide, for the period 1 January 2022 – 20 October 2025, the number of referrals received by the IOPC relating to allegations of sexual harassment, sexual assault, or stalking that were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Returned to the originating force without an independent IOPC investigation; and • Subsequently resulted in the officer being returned to full duty (i.e. not suspended or subject to disciplinary proceedings). 	
<p>A total of 3156 referrals were either returned to the originating force or determined to require a local investigation. This information should be considered in conjunction with further contextual information, caveats and notes regarding this figure.</p>	

Caveats & Notes

Data is for illustrative purposes only.

This data considers overt referrals only

The following data is based on Referrals received and completed by the IOPC in the period 01.01.22 to 01.10.25 (inclusive)

This information is taken from live data and as such may differ from previously published data & statistics.

The appropriate authority, as well as other case attributes, is dependent on accurate data recording in the IOPC case management system by operational teams.

The case factors used in this data are: From before the introduction of CMS: Domestic/Gender Abuse: Stalking/Harassment, Sexual assault or Harassment and it's subfactors Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment

The case factors used in this data are: From after the introduction of CMS: Stalking or Harassment: Malicious Communications, Stalking or Harassment: Sexual Harassment, Stalking or Harassment: Stalking, Stalking or Harassment: Stalking/Harassment, Abuse: Sexual Abuse and Abuse: Sexual Assault.

Please note that case factors are manually selected by operational staff to help identify the nature of the circumstances of a case. Therefore, they should not be relied on to provide definitive data since application of case factors is reliant on individual discretion

A factor selected on a case may be relevant to the incident to which the case relates but may not be what the case is about. Therefore data presented using case factors should be used for illustrative purposes only.

Please note that case factors are manually selected by operational staff to help identify the nature of the circumstances of a case. Therefore, the data pulled will represent all cases in which the factors were applied BUT there has not been a quality assessment completed to validate its accuracy or that all cases that should have had the factors applied have done so.

Data provided should not be relied on to provide definitive data as the application of case factors is reliant on individual discretion.

We do not hold information relating to the second question because this relates to investigation and outcomes handled by police forces rather than the IOPC.

Ref 5025983

Deaths following police contact where alcohol and drugs was a factor

1. National Data

1.1 For each calendar year from 1 January 2018 to the most recent available, please provide the number of deaths recorded during or following police contact in England and Wales where any of the following were identified as a cause or contributing factor:

- Alcohol intoxication
- Drug intoxication or overdose
- Combined alcohol and drug toxicity

1.2 For each year, please indicate:

- The number of deaths that occurred **in police custody**;
- The number that occurred **in police vehicles, during restraint, or in transit**;
- The number that occurred **post-release or following medical transfer**; and
- The number of those cases in which an **ambulance** was called or medical services attended.

2. Force-Level Breakdown

2.1 Please provide the same data categories above, broken down by individual police force area (if available from existing datasets).

2.2 Please ensure data for West Yorkshire Police are included within that breakdown.

We can confirm that we hold information requested in point 1. Following clarification, it was agreed that for the purposes of section 1.2 of the request, we will focus on deaths occurring in or following police custody. To ensure consistency across all elements, we have also focused on deaths in or following custody for section 1.1.

We record our data by financial year. The data provided covers all deaths in and following police custody where alcohol and drugs were identified as a factor, that occurred between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2025. More recent deaths have not been included as these cases are still undergoing verification and checks.

The **deaths in or following police custody** category includes deaths that happen while a person is being arrested or taken into detention. It includes deaths of people who have been arrested or detained by police under the Mental Health Act 1983. The death may have taken place on police, private or medical premises, in a public place or in a police or other vehicle.

This includes deaths that happen:

- during or following police custody where injuries that contributed to the death happened during the period of detention.
- in or on the way to hospital (or other medical premises) during or following transfer from scene of arrest or police custody.
- as a result of injuries or other medical problems that are identified or develop while a person is in custody.
- while a person is in police custody having been detained under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 or other related legislation.

This does not include:

- suicides that occur after a person has been released from police custody.
- deaths that happen where the police are called to help medical staff to restrain people who are not under arrest.

During this period, there were **109 deaths** categorised as 'deaths in or following police custody' where alcohol and/or drugs were a factor. An explanation of how we select these factors is provided below.

The **alcohol** factor is marked if the deceased had recently consumed or was intoxicated with alcohol at the time of arrest or contact with the police. It will also be marked if the cause of death is linked to alcohol. The relevance of alcohol may be deemed from information on the referral form from the police force or from information that is identified during the investigation).

The **drugs** factor is applied to cases where the deceased had recently consumed drugs, was under the influence of drugs, had a history of drug abuse, or was found to be in possession of illegal drugs at the time of arrest or contact with the police. It will also be selected if the cause of death is related to drugs (either illegal or prescription drugs), including long-term misuse, overdose or where drug packages may have burst or are lodged in airways. The prevalence of drugs may be identified from information on the referral form from the police force or from the case description and investigation.

Table 1.1 Number of deaths in or following police custody where alcohol and/or drugs were a factor, 2018/19 to 2024/25, broken down by year

Financial Year	Alcohol	Drugs	Drugs/Alcohol combined	Total number of deaths involving drugs and/or alcohol
2018/19	7	11	4	14
2019/20	7	12	5	14
2020/21	8	11	5	14
2021/22	5	7	3	9
2022/23	11	13	3	21
2023/24	13	17	8	22
2024/25	8	11	4	15
Total	59	82	32	109

Note: Some fatalities may involve both drugs and alcohol as a factor. Cases where there were multiple factors are counted as one fatality in the total fatalities' column. The 'Combined' column shows cases where both alcohol and drugs were present as a factor.

Point 1.2 of the request, as clarified, asked for the number of deaths in or following police custody for each year between 2018/19 and 2024/25, where the person involved:

- became ill in a police vehicle, and of those, the number who subsequently died in hospital and the number who died during transportation; or
- died following release from police custody.

There were a total of **130** deaths in or following police custody that occurred between 2018/19 and 2024/25. Of those:

- **seven** people became ill while in a police vehicle. Of those, six later died in hospital, and one individual died in an ambulance. A breakdown of this data by financial year is provided in Table 1.2 below.
- **nine** individuals died following release from police custody. A breakdown of this data by financial year is provided in Table 1.3 below.

Table 1.2 Deaths in or following police custody where person became ill in a police vehicle 2018/19 to 2024/25, by year and location of death

Location of death	Financial year							Total deaths
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	
Died in hospital	1	1	0	2	1	1	0	6
Died in ambulance	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total number of deaths where person became ill in a police vehicle	2	1	0	2	1	1	0	7

Table 1.3 Deaths in or following custody where person died following release from police custody 2018/19 to 2024/25, by year

Financial Year	Number of deaths
2018/19	2
2019/20	0
2020/21	2
2021/22	2
2022/23	1
2023/24	1
2024/25	1
Total	9

Table 2.1 provides a breakdown of the drugs and alcohol data provided in table 1.1, by force. We have not provided a further breakdown by financial year as this may risk identification of individuals in forces with low case numbers.

Table 2.1 Number of deaths in or following police custody where alcohol and/or drugs were a factor, 2018/19 to 2024/25, broken down by force

Force	Alcohol	Drugs	Drugs/Alcohol combined	Total deaths involving drugs and/or alcohol
Avon & Somerset	1	1	0	2
Cambridgeshire	1	1	0	2
Cheshire	1	2	1	2
Cleveland	2	3	1	4
Derbyshire	2	1	1	2
Devon & Cornwall	2	4	1	5
Durham	1	0	0	1
Dyfed Powys	1	1	1	1
Essex	2	4	2	4
Greater Manchester	4	6	2	8
Gwent	1	1	0	2
Hampshire	2	3	1	4
Hertfordshire	0	2	0	2
Kent	2	1	1	2

Lancashire	1	0	0	1
Leicestershire	1	0	0	1
Lincolnshire	2	1	0	3
Merseyside	2	5	1	6
Metropolitan	8	11	5	14
Norfolk	2	3	1	4
North Wales	0	1	0	1
North Yorkshire	0	1	0	1
Northamptonshire	0	1	0	1
Northumbria	3	3	1	5
Nottinghamshire	2	3	2	3
South Wales	0	1	0	1
South Yorkshire	1	2	0	3
Staffordshire	4	3	3	4
Suffolk	1	1	0	2
Surrey	1	0	0	1
Sussex	1	1	1	1
Thames Valley	3	3	3	3
Warwickshire	0	1	0	1
West Midlands	3	5	3	5
West Yorkshire	1	3	0	4
Wiltshire	1	1	1	1
Home Office	0	1	0	1
Leicestershire Police & Warwickshire Police	0	1	0	1
Total	59	82	32	109

Note: Some fatalities may involve both drugs and alcohol as a factor. Cases where there were multiple factors are counted as one fatality in the total fatalities' column. The 'Combined' column shows cases where both alcohol and drugs were present as a factor.

Table 2.2 provides information on the number of deaths in or following police custody that occurred between 2018/19 to 2024/25, where the person became ill in a police vehicle, and for which the appropriate authority was either West Yorkshire Police or one of the forces within West Yorkshire Police's 'Most Similar Force' (MSF) group.

MSF groups are determined by the Home Office. They are groups of police force areas that have been found to be the most similar to each other based on an analysis of demographic, social and economic characteristics relating to crime. With the exception of City of London Police and British Transport Police (where identifying a most similar force is not possible), each force area has its own group of up to seven force areas that it is 'most similar' to. MSF groups are designed to help make a fairer comparison between police forces than the average of all forces across England and Wales can sometimes offer. Although caution should still be used in making comparisons between forces, even in the same MSF group.

Table 2.2 Number of custody deaths between 2018/19 and 2024/25 where the person became ill in a police vehicle, broken down by West Yorkshire Police's Most Similar Force group and location of death.

Force	Location of death		Total deaths
	Died in hospital	Died in an ambulance	
West Yorkshire Police	0	0	0
Greater Manchester Police	1	0	1
Lancashire Constabulary	0	0	0
Northumbria Police	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire Police	1	0	1
South Wales Police	0	0	0
South Yorkshire Police	0	0	0
West Midlands Police	0	0	0
Total	2	0	2

Table 2.3 provides information on the number of deaths in or following police custody that occurred between 2018/19 to 2024/25, where the person died following release from police custody, and for which the appropriate authority was either West Yorkshire Police or one of the forces within West Yorkshire Police's 'Most Similar Force' (MSF) group.

Table 2.3 Number of custody deaths between 2018/19 and 2024/25 where the person died following release from custody, broken down by West Yorkshire Police's Most Similar Force group and location of death

Force	Number of deaths
West Yorkshire Police	0
Greater Manchester Police	2
Lancashire Constabulary	0
Northumbria Police	1
Nottinghamshire Police	0
South Wales Police	1
South Yorkshire Police	1
West Midlands Police	0
Total	5

Ref 5026047

Blocked and restricted websites on IOPC systems

1. Please provide a list of all website categories that are blocked or restricted on your network filtering system (eg. adult content, gambling, gaming, games, illegal streaming, dating, social media etc)

2. Attempted access to blocked websites

For the period 1st January 2025 to 4th December 2025 (or the present date by which you are searching data), the total number of attempts to access blocked websites, broken down by category (see examples above)

- The top 20 most frequently attempted blocked URLs, showing

- URL/domain name
- Number of attempted visits

If naming specific URLs is not possible, please provide the domain only (eg. "skybet.com")

3. Network Scope

Please clarify if possible whether the figures involve for each data set:

- Staff devices
- Publicly accessible devices (if applies)

We can confirm that 25,554 web access requests were blocked in this period. The majority of these are classified by the system as "meaningless content". All such requests are made through staff devices as we do not allow other devices to connect to our system.

We are refusing to provide the remainder of the requested information because it engages the exemption under section 31(1)(a) and the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

We have decided that responding to these questions would release details of the scale, configuration and complexity of our ICT estate into the public domain. This information could then be used against us to determine potential attack vectors by a threat actor.

Disclosure information about blocked website categories would reveal details of our internet firewall security configuration at a time when the risk of cyber-attack has been assessed as very high.

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Rydym yn croesawu galwadau ffôn yn y Gymraeg

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