

**Freedom of Information Act / Environmental Information Regulations Request**

Reference: ECC18902618 08 25
Response: 21 August 2025

I can confirm that Essex County Council does hold this information, and where we are able to release this, our response is listed below.

**1. Name of responding CSP(s):**

**2. Local authority area(s) covered:**

**3. How many domestic abuse-related death notifications did the CSP area(s) receive between January 2017 and December 2024 related to cases the CSP was responsible for?**

**By ‘responsible for’, we mean that the final decision was made by the CSP. Do not include cases here where the CSP was not the lead. (E.g., if a DHR was jointly commissioned with another CSP, or if a DHR was jointly commissioned with another statutory review, only answer if you were the CSP responsible for contracting the Chair).**

**Please provide your answer with reference to the year period the notification was received.**

**1st January 2017 – 31st December 2017:**

**1st January 2018 – 31st December 2018:**

**1st January 2019 – 31st December 2019:**

**1st January 2020 – 31st December 2020:**

**1st January 2021 – 31st December 2021:**

**1st January 2022 – 31st December 2022:**

**1st January 2023 – 31st December 2023:**

**1st January 2024 – 31st December 2024:**

**Total:**

**4a) As of 31st December 2024, what was the process for the CSP to make decisions about whether to commission a DHR/DARDR following a domestic abuse-related death notification? If you consult stakeholders, please include details in your response:**

**4b) If the decision-making process has changed over time in your local authority area, what has changed and why? Please provide a summary:**

**5. What was the notification source?**

**6a. What was the case type? (i.e. homicide, suicide, unexpected death (e.g. fall from a height), or other (e.g. neglect)?**

**6b. What was the victim’s relationship to the (alleged) perpetrator?**

**7a. Victim characteristics**

**- Age:**

**- Country of Birth:**

**- Disability:**

**- Ethnicity:**

**- Gender Identity:**

**- Immigration Status:**

**- Parent/carer to a child under 18:**

**- Pregnant:**

**- Religion:**

**- Sex:**

**- Sexual Orientation:**

**7b. (Alleged) perpetrator characteristics**

**- Age:**

**- Country of Birth:**

**- Disability:**

**- Ethnicity:**

**- Gender Identity:**

**- Immigration Status:**

**- Parent/carer to a child under 18:**

**- Pregnant:**

**- Religion:**

**- Sex:**

**- Sexual Orientation:**

**8a. Were stakeholders outside of the responsible authorities in the CSP consulted in the decision-making process about whether to commission a review? For example, this could include seeking advice from a specialist domestic abuse or led-by-and-for service. (Yes or No. If not known, please state ‘unknown’):**

**8b. If yes, which services outside of the CSP were consulted? (Free text) (If not known, please state: ‘unknown’):**

**9. What was the outcome of the notification? I.e. was a DHR/DARDR commissioned or not, some other alterative process undertaken such as a rapid learning review or multi-agency professional form and/or a statutory review commissioned like a review into the death or serious incident of children or adults, a mental health homicide or offensive weapons homicide review?). (Free text) (If not known, please state: ‘unknown’):**

**10. What was the rationale for this commissioning decision? Please describe any specific case circumstances that informed the decision, including case circumstances (e.g. specific vulnerabilities, honour-based violence, the relationship status between the subjects was unclear, a history of violence and abuse) or other considerations (e.g. the most appropriate type of statutory review, or where the victim's residence was not clear, etc). (Free text) (If not known, please state: ‘unknown’):**

**11. Was the Home Office notified of the commissioning decision? (Yes or No. If not known, please state ‘unknown’):**

**12. Was the family notified of the commissioning decision? (Yes or No. If not known, please state ‘unknown’):**

**12a. If a DHR/DARDR was not commissioned by the CSP, what was the Home Office Quality Assurance Panel’s decision? (Free text. If not known, please state ‘unknown’. If not applicable state ‘not applicable’):**

**12b. If the Home Office Quality Assurance Panel asked for further information or a review of the decision, what was the final outcome? (i.e. did the CSP then commission a review or not?) If the reason for the decision is not available, please state: ‘unknown’. (Free text. If not known, please state ‘unknown’. If not applicable state ‘not applicable’):**

**13. To your knowledge, in addition to the DHR/DARDR, were any other statutory reviews separately commissioned into this death? (In this question, by statutory reviews, we mean other multi-agency reviews like reviews into the death or serious incident of children or adults, mental health homicides, offensive weapons homicide reviews, etc.). (Free text) (If not known, please state: ‘unknown’):**

**14. For this case, please gives the month and year for: (If the data is not available, please state: ‘unknown’) (use format MONTH/YEAR i.e. 01/2001)**

**Date of the death:**

**Date of the notification to the CSP:**

**Date the decision to commission/not commission a review was taken:**

**Date the family was informed of the decision:**

I can confirm that Essex County Council does hold this information, however from our preliminary assessment, we estimate that compliance with your request would exceed the appropriate costs limit under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This is currently £450. This limit is calculated 18 hours of work at a cost of £25 per hour.

Once a case has been completed in our individual case files we only keep copies of the original notification, Core Group meeting, HO correspondence and the final versions of reports.

There were 56 notifications between 2017 – start of 2025. 37 were commissioned and 19 were not commissioned. The process to find the requested information from these notifications that were commissioned would equate to 2hours per case: 37 cases = 74 hours work and for the ones that were not commissioned it would be 80 minutes per case: 19 cases = 26 hours of work.

In total this would equate to 100 hours of work which exceeds the appropriate costs.

This letter acts as a Refusal Notice in respect of your request.

Under section 16 of the Act, our duty to assist those requesting information we advise that you should consider reframing your request to bring it under the cost limit. For example, you might like to consider

* + reducing the volume of information requested
	+ reducing the timeframe of your request
	+ focusing on one topic or service area

Please note that if you were to submit a series of smaller requests, we may still refuse to provide the requested data. Regulatory guidance states ‘The Act recognises that freedom of information requests are not the only demand on the resources of a public authority. They should not be allowed to cause a drain on your time, energy, and finances to the extent that they negatively affect your normal public functions.

When calculating the costs of complying, you can aggregate (total) the costs of all related requests you receive within 60 working days from the same person or from people who seem to be working together.’

If you would like to submit a reframed request which falls below the cost limit, or if you would like advice and assistance, then please do not hesitate to contact us and we will provide further support

**Your Right to Know**

Democracy and Transparency

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