National Police Chiefs' Council

National Police
Freedom of Information
and Data Protection Unit

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25/08/2026

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NUMBER: 3082/2026

Thank you for your request for information regarding Domestic Abuse figures, which has now been considered.

Applicant Question:

I am writing to make a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, regarding the release made on 24 July 2026 titled "Over 380 reports of domestic abuse linked to World Cup," which reported 384 recorded incidents of domestic abuse linked to the 2026 World Cup.

In order to assist you with this request, I am outlining my query as specifically as possible. Should you need further clarification, please contact me, as I understand you are required to advise and assist requesters under the Act.

I would like to request the following information:

1. Confirmation of which police forces contributed to the 384 figure - specifically, whether this figure includes data from Police Scotland and/or the Police Service of Northern Ireland, or whether it is drawn solely from the 43 territorial police forces of England and Wales.

2. The methodology used to determine that football was "an aggravating factor" in a recorded domestic abuse incident, including any recording criteria or guidance issued to forces for this purpose.

3. A breakdown of the 384 incidents by date, covering the full recording period of 11 June to 20 July 2026 stated in the release.

4. The equivalent methodology and total figure for the 2022 World Cup, and confirmation of whether the same recording criteria were used, to allow for a fair comparison between the two tournaments.

5. Any underlying data, statistical breakdown, or report referenced in the 24 July 2026 release that has not already been published in full.

NPCC Response:

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The NPCC does hold recorded information in scope of your request.

1. Part 1 Confirmation of which police forces contributed to the 384 figure - specifically, whether this figure includes data from Police Scotland and/or the Police Service of Northern Ireland, or whether it is drawn solely from the 43 territorial police forces of England and Wales.

   The NPCC can confirm that the figure of 384 was a contribution of 43 England and Wales forces.

2. Part 2 The methodology used to determine that football was "an aggravating factor" in a recorded domestic abuse incident, including any recording criteria or guidance issued to forces for this purpose.

   A communication issued to Chief Constables in June 2026 by Chief Constable Mark Roberts, NPCC Lead for Football, and Assistant Commissioner Louisa Rolfe, NPCC Lead for Domestic Abuse, regarding Operation FLAGSHIP, the national policing response to domestic abuse during the FIFA World Cup 2026.

   The letter is attached with minor S40 Personal Information and S31 Law Enforcement redaction.

   For further information relating to the legislation, please see Annex A.

3. Part 3 A breakdown of the 384 incidents by date, covering the full recording period of 11 June to 20 July 2026 stated in the release.

12/06/2026	01
13/06/2026	0
14/06/2026	03
15/06/2026	02
18/06/2026	37
19/06/2026	01
20/06/2026	04
21/06/2026	02
22/06/2026	01
23/06/2026	03
24/06/2026	21
25/06/2026	05
26/06/2026	01
27/06/2026	01
28/06/2026	29
29/06/2026	01
30/06/2026	0
31/06/2026	0
01/07/2026	0
02/07/2026	35
03/07/2026	01
04/07/2026	02

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05/07/2026	0
06/07/2026	32
07/07/2026	09
08/07/2026	02
09/07/2026	0
10/07/2026	02
11/07/2026	03
12/07/2026	79
13/07/2026	02
14/07/2026	01
15/07/2026	01
16/07/2026	88
17/07/2026	01
18/07/2026	00
19/07/2026	09
20/07/2026	05

4. Part 4 The equivalent methodology and total figure for the 2022 World Cup, and confirmation of whether the same recording criteria were used, to allow for a fair comparison between the two tournaments.

   The total figure recorded for the 2022 FIFA World Cup was **119** incidents.

   The NPCC does not hold recorded information setting out an equivalent methodology or recording criteria for the 2022 FIFA World Cup and this therefore unable to confirm whether the same recording criteria were used in 2022 and 2026.

   To assist, the NPCC has attached a letter issued by Chief Constable Mark Roberts to Chief Constables on 13 September 2022 concerning planning arrangements for the FIFA World Cup 2022. The document is not considered to provide an equivalent methodology or recording criteria but may assist in understanding the arrangements in place at that time. Contact details have been removed from the document for administrative reasons only and not by way of reliance on an exemption under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

   For further context, the NPCC has also attached the letter previously disclosed in response to FOI reference 3077/2206 concerning Operation FLAGSHIP and the FIFA World Cup 2026. The redactions contained within that document are those applied and explained in the response to FOI reference 3077/2026 and no additional information has been withheld for the purposes of responding to this request.

5. Part 5 Any underlying data, statistical breakdown, or report referenced in the 24 July 2026 release that has not already been published in full.

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The NPCC does not hold recorded information in scope of part 5 of your request.

Yours sincerely
Freedom of Information Officer & Decision Maker

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COMPLAINT RIGHTS

Internal Review

Any request for an internal review will be acknowledged and responded to, based on the specific wording of your initial request only.

We ask that any rationale to request an internal review, does not include any requests for new information and ask that these be submitted by separate email. We will acknowledge as a new request and may aggregate to your initial request in compliance with the legislation.

If you are dissatisfied with the response you have been provided with in compliance with the Freedom of Information legislation, you can lodge a complaint with NPCC to have the decision reviewed within 40 working days of the date of this response.

The handling of your request will be looked at by someone independent of the original decision and a fresh response provided.

It would be helpful, if requesting a review, for you to articulate in detail the reasons you are not satisfied with this reply.

If you would like to request a review, please write or send an email to NPCC Freedom of Information, c/o PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire, PO14 9FS.

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Annex A

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the NPCC, when refusing to provide information by way of exemption in question and (c) states why the exemption applies. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a refusal notice to those aspects of your request.

The legislation: Section 40 Personal Information

(1) Any information to which a request for information relates is exempt information if it constitutes personal data of which the applicant is the data subject.

(2) Any information to which a request for information relates is also exempt information if
(a) it constitutes personal data which does not fall within subsection (1), and
(b) the first, second or third condition below is satisfied.

(3A) The first condition is that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act—
(a) would contravene any of the data protection principles, or
(b) would do so if the exemptions in section 24(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018 (manual unstructured data held by public authorities) were disregarded.

(3B) The second condition is that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act would contravene Article 21 of the GDPR (general processing: right to object to processing).

Any information to which a request for information relates is also exempt information if it constitutes personal data which do not fall within subsection (1), and either the first or the second condition is satisfied.

S40(2) applies to third party personal data. Any release would breach the data protection principles contained within the Data Protection Act 2018. S40(2) has been engaged by virtue of S40(3)(a)(i). Any disclosure of withheld information would breach the first data protection principle of fair and lawful processing.

This is an absolute exemption and there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

Minor Section 31 redaction of the letter provided:

A limited amount of information has been withheld from the letter issued by Chief Constable Mark Roberts and Assistant Commissioner Louisa Rolfe. The withheld information comprises the name of a policing operation associated with the overall policing response to the FIFA World Cup 2026.

The operation name is not publicly acknowledged and remains operationally sensitive. Disclosure would reveal information capable of identifying and linking operational policing activity associated with the national policing response to the tournament. Whilst the withheld information is limited, disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is a disclosure to the world at large and could enable information from different sources to be combined to build a more complete understanding of policing operations, their purpose and associated activities.

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The NPCC considers that disclosure would be likely to prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders by unnecessarily revealing information relating to a live policing operation. Accordingly, Sections 31(1)(a) and 31(1)(b) are engaged.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure

There is a public interest in openness and transparency regarding policing operations and decision-making. Disclosure would provide greater insight into the policing arrangements surrounding the FIFA World Cup 2026.

Factors favouring maintaining the exemption

There is a strong public interest in safeguarding the effectiveness of policing operations and ensuring that information capable of identifying or linking operational activity is not unnecessarily disclosed. There is also a significant public interest in protecting law enforcement activity designed to prevent crime and safeguard the public.

Balance Test

Whilst the NPCC recognise the importance of transparency, the withheld information is limited to the name of an operational policing activity. The public interest in disclosure is met through the release of the remainder of the correspondence. Greater weight has been attributed to the public interest in protecting operational policing activity and avoiding prejudice to law enforcement functions. The public interest therefore favours maintaining the exemption.

Legislation – Section 16

(1) It shall be the duty of a public authority to provide advice and assistance, so far as it would be reasonable to expect the authority to do so, to persons who propose to make, or have made, requests for information to it.