



Ministry of Defence Police

Freedom of Information Manager

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Our Ref: eCase: FOI 2021/05781

RFI: 170/21

Date: 30 June 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: WELFARE CHECKS ON CHILDREN.

We refer to your email dated 2 June 2021 to the Ministry of Defence Police which was acknowledged on the same date.

We are treating your email as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000).

In your email you requested the following information:

I would like to ask for a freedom of information request (from all included) for the following questions please;

Dates for information request: 1/6/2020-1/6/21

& (as directed in question 6) 2006-present

- 1. How many requests/incidences have you had for welfare checks on children by women who have had their children removed by the biological father. If the data is obtainable, how many have of these incidences have had domestic violence reported towards a male perpetrator?**
- 2. How many women have asked for help from the police or, have reported to the police an issue regarding a child, that has been removed by a child's biological father?**
- 3. How many women have asked for either a civil or enforceable family court order to be enforced?**
- 4. Do the new coercive control measures include the risk of men removing children for no justifiable cause, but to inflict further trauma on the mother? And if not what guidance does the police give to mothers apart from stopping contact?**

5. Do officers doing welfare checks and investigating officers dealing with these sorts of situations have guidance on what to do if a child is being removed by someone with previous domestic abuse history and reasonable cause but to coerce the mother? If so what is the guidance for your force?

6. Since 2006 when the law changed to allow both parents parental responsibility if on the birth certificate, has the police found this an increasing problem?

A search for information has now been completed by the Ministry of Defence Police and I can confirm that we do hold information in scope of your request.

1. How many requests/incidences have you had for welfare checks on children by women who have had their children removed by the biological father. If the data is obtainable, how many have of these incidences have had domestic violence reported towards a male perpetrator?

Nil

2. How many women have asked for help from the police or, have reported to the police an issue regarding a child, that has been removed by a child's biological father?

Nil

3. How many women have asked for either a civil or enforceable family court order to be enforced?

Nil

4. Do the new coercive control measures include the risk of men removing children for no justifiable cause, but to inflict further trauma on the mother? And if not what guidance does the police give to mothers apart from stopping contact?

No information held

5. Do officers doing welfare checks and investigating officers dealing with these sorts of situations have guidance on what to do if a child is being removed by someone with previous domestic abuse history and reasonable cause but to coerce the mother? If so what is the guidance for your force?

No information held

6. Since 2006 when the law changed to allow both parents parental responsibility if on the birth certificate, has the police found this an increasing problem?

No information held

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance), it may be helpful to note that the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) is a civilian Police force funded by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) to protect and secure key MOD assets.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk).

Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

MDP Secretariat and Freedom of Information Office