

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO 2026-27-021

Your request has now been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) and we provide our response below.

You asked:

I am conducting research into the unsolved murder of Sandra Court in Dorset in May 1986 as part of the development of a factual documentary project.

I appreciate that the OPCC is separate from Dorset Police and does not hold operational responsibility for criminal investigations. I am therefore seeking only information held by the OPCC, or any relevant inherited records, concerning governance, funding, resources or oversight relating to the case.

Please provide, insofar as held and readily identifiable:

1. Whether the OPCC holds any correspondence, briefing, report or other recorded information which specifically refers to the Sandra Court murder investigation.
2. The dates and titles/descriptions of any such records.
3. Whether the PCC has at any time received a briefing from Dorset Police concerning the status or review of Sandra Court's murder, and the date/year of any such briefing. I am not seeking sensitive operational content.
4. Whether the OPCC has approved, considered or been informed of exceptional/additional expenditure specifically associated with a review or re-investigation of Sandra Court's murder.
5. The date/year and amount of any such specifically identifiable expenditure or funding, without seeking details capable of revealing investigative strategy.
6. Whether any funding was approved for forensic re-examination, specialist review or external investigative assistance specifically connected with the Sandra Court case.
7. Whether the OPCC holds correspondence from members of the public, elected representatives or other organisations specifically concerning the continued investigation or review of Sandra Court's murder. I am not seeking the personal information of correspondents.

I would also be grateful if you could confirm whether the OPCC holds any records inherited from the former Dorset Police Authority which specifically concern:

8. Sandra Court's murder;
9. funding/resources for the investigation or subsequent reviews;
10. any reward offered in connection with the case; or
11. oversight of undetected homicide investigations generally.

Where relevant historic Dorset Police Authority records are no longer held by the OPCC, please identify, insofar as recorded, whether they were transferred to Dorset History Centre, Dorset Police, The National Archives or another repository.

Your request for information has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act), and our response is as follows:

- 1. Whether the OPCC holds any correspondence, briefing, report or other recorded information which specifically refers to the Sandra Court murder investigation.**

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) holds a record of a media enquiry it received regarding the murder of Sandra Court. The enquiry was intended for Dorset Police rather than the OPCC.

- 2. The dates and titles/descriptions of any such records.**

The above-referenced enquiry was received on 3 August 2026.

- 3. Whether the PCC has at any time received a briefing from Dorset Police concerning the status or review of Sandra Court's murder, and the date/year of any such briefing. I am not seeking sensitive operational content.**

No information held.

- 4. Whether the OPCC has approved, considered or been informed of exceptional/additional expenditure specifically associated with a review or re-investigation of Sandra Court's murder.**

No information held.

- 5. The date/year and amount of any such specifically identifiable expenditure or funding, without seeking details capable of revealing investigative strategy.**

No information held.

- 6. Whether any funding was approved for forensic re-examination, specialist review or external investigative assistance specifically connected with the Sandra Court case.**

No information held.

- 7. Whether the OPCC holds correspondence from members of the public, elected representatives or other organisations specifically concerning the continued investigation or review of Sandra Court's murder. I am not seeking the personal information of correspondents.**

Please refer to response given to question 1.

I would also be grateful if you could confirm whether the OPCC holds any records inherited from the former Dorset Police Authority which specifically concern:

8. Sandra Court's murder;

No information held.

9. funding/resources for the investigation or subsequent reviews;

No information held.

10. any reward offered in connection with the case; or

No information held.

11. oversight of undetected homicide investigations generally.

No information held.

Where relevant historic Dorset Police Authority records are no longer held by the OPCC, please identify, insofar as recorded, whether they were transferred to Dorset History Centre, Dorset Police, The National Archives or another repository.

No information held.