

Our ref: 01/FOI/24/012672/P

Please quote our reference
number when responding

Monday, 01 July 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/012672/P

I write in connection with your request for information dated 22/05/2024, I note you seek access to the following information:

- 1. Is it standard practice to transcribe sexual assault- rape video interviews? or is it standard practice to have the video itself in isolation without a written transcription?*
- 2. If there is a written transcription is this verbatim word for word or summarised?*
- 3. Is an electronica application/software used for this transcription? If so what is the name of the software programme*
- 4. Is it policy to show the transcription to the victim to ensure the transcription is accurate? If it is inaccurate does the victim have a chance to change anything on the transcription before it is submitted as evidence?*
- 5. Is it policy during video interview for the police officer interviewing the victim to ask if he/she fancied or was attracted to the perpetrator*
- 6. Could you please provide the standardised questions asked in a video interview for rape victims*
- 7. If the victim has mental health issues and ADHD what is the normal standard practice and policy /referral to provide support prior and during for the victim when he/she has the video interview*

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police to locate information relevant to your request.

I can confirm that the record information you have requested is not held by Greater Manchester Police.

As a gesture of good will, I have provided the answers outside of the FOI Act below.

1. No, each case file will be treated on its own merits. Pre Charge (investigation and file build) transcripts will only be produced in rare circumstances, it is more Post Charge when Court proceedings are progressing that a transcript will be required.
2. If a transcript is provided the opening/introduction may be summarised, otherwise the interview itself comprising of questions and answers will be verbatim.
3. With regards to ROVIs/ABEs (Record of Video Interview/Achieving Best Evidence), it is for the CPS (Crown Prosecution Service) to produce the transcript and they outsource to an external organisation. Please contact CPS for such information.
4. No. The victim would not be asked to review the transcript. The video recorded interview will be their evidence in chief which will be played out in any court case. The ROVI is just a guide. If the police produce a ROVI it becomes the officers exhibit and they would be expected to check it and sign that it is accurate, however the video will always be the evidence used. The victim will always be invited to watch their video interview at the police station prior to court to remind themselves of what they have said is their evidence.
5. No.
6. The questions asked on ABE interviews are never standard. It depends on the information available to the officer, the points to prove and what lines of enquiry are identified.
7. This is dependent on the individual. Standard practice is a referral to the ISVA Service (Independent Sexual Violence Advisers) prior to interview with consent. Depending on support requirements a PIPPA assessment (Pre Interview Planning Preparation and Assessment) might be required to decide if an intermediary is required or how to best communicate with the victim depending on their communication needs. Victims can always bring a support with them for the interview. They will not be allowed to be present in the interview but can be a source of comfort before, during or after e.g if the victim requires a break they can go and see their support during this. If it is deemed support from an appropriate adult is required they can sit in the interview to facilitate communication requirements. Victims will be checked on that they are ok after the

interview and the interviewer will usually see if they have any support requirements and deal accordingly.

Please note the information provided above is outside of the Act and there is no recourse for complaint.