

Number of people travelling to Switzerland for assisted deaths without police detection

Police Force	Number of Recorded Crimes or Incidents 2015 - 2018	Number of Recorded Crimes or Incidents 2015 - 2019	Estimated Actual Number
Avon and Somerset Constabulary	0 (no offences have been identified)	1	9
Bedfordshire Police	1	Refused	1
Cambridgeshire Constabulary	4	6	7
Cheshire Constabulary	1	5	5
City of London Police	0	Refused	0
Cleveland Police	2	3	<i>n/a</i>
Cumbria Constabulary	0 (no records found)	1	<i>n/a</i>
Derbyshire Constabulary	1	7	1
Devon and Cornwall Police	4	6	6
Dorset Police	5	4	6
Durham Constabulary	1	1	3
Dyfed-Powys Police	5	5	<i>n/a</i>
Essex Police	5	5	8
Gloucestershire Constabulary	Refused to release the information	Refused	2
Greater Manchester Police	Did not Respond	7	5
Gwent Police	0	Refused	1
Hampshire Constabulary	8	13	6
Hertfordshire Constabulary	4	Refused	3
Humberside Police	2	3	3

Kent Police	4	6	9
Lancashire Constabulary	3	3	6
Leicestershire Constabulary	6	6	4
Merseyside Police	Fewer than 3	Refused	4
Metropolitan Police Services	4	5	49
Norfolk Constabulary	2	2	6
North Wales Police	4	4	4
North Yorkshire Police	2	0	3
Northamptonshire Police	1	3	1
Northumbria Police	2	0	6
Nottinghamshire Police	2	3	3
South Wales Police	0 (no records found)	3	4
South Yorkshire Police	1	2	3
Staffordshire Police	3	4	<i>n/a</i>
Suffolk Constabulary	4	10	4
Surrey Police	2	3	7
Sussex Police	7	7	11
Thames Valley Police	6	8	12
Warwickshire Police	2	Did not respond	2
West Mercia Police	6	7	6
West Midlands Police	4	5	5
West Yorkshire Police	5	5	4
Wiltshire Police	1	1	2
Lincolnshire Police	2	2	4
TOTAL	119	156	
RESPONSE RATE	95.35%	83.72%	

Methodology

In 2019 and 2020, My Death, My Decision sent a Freedom of Information request to all 43 territorial police authorities in England and Wales. The request was for the number of recorded crimes, arrests, and individuals charged for assisting another to die under the 1961 Suicide Act between 2015 and 2019; or recorded under the Home Office's codes for assisted suicide. The total number of recorded crimes was then compared against figures held by the Swiss organisations Dignitas and Lifecircle for the number of people in England and Wales who ended their life in Switzerland, over the same period.

Police numbers include assisted deaths which occurred both in the UK and abroad. Consequently, the number of recorded crimes in some police authorities is higher than the estimated number of people who travelled to Switzerland for an assisted death.

Estimated actual numbers are based on information provided by Dignitas and Lifecircle.