

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.ukdisclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Date: 11 March 2021

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2021/205

Reply contact name is: Ellie James

Dear ****,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 08 March 2021 concerning Crimes in Educational Establishments between 2007-2019.

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to handle all requests in a manner that is blind as to the identity and motives of the requestor. Any information released as a response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore in the public domain without caveat.

Your request for information has now been considered and I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

You wrote:

I am interested in a list of reported crimes and incidents (with an indicator to distinguish between the two) taking place at an educational establishment 2007-2019 containing the following information:

- a) offence description,
- b) date of offence,
- c) place (university, school, college),
- d) and an indicator whether a hate motive was reported,
- e) and if applicable a list of the hate motives reported.

The specific structure of the data is at your convenience, so long as I am able to understand from the provided data when the incident or crime took place, if it was at a school or at a university (adolescents or young adults), if and what hate bias was reported.

To be clear, I am interested in crimes at educational institutions for adolescents and young adults but need to be able to distinguish as best as possible if the victim and/or suspect was in secondary school or post-secondary.

To that end, is it possible to include information on whether the victim and/or suspect was a minor?

I understand that the information on the location may not be reliable or clear enough to determine if it took place on school premises or in the area around and accept that limitation.

I also understand that the data may contain incidents that happened at a location with "school" or "university" in the name but not actual schooling locations.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Could you also provide an explanation for how the location of the incident or crime is recorded and whether the data is specific enough to be certain that it took place at the educational institution and not in the vicinity or non-school locations with the words "school" or "university".

Our response:

The information that you are requesting is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval. Wiltshire Police do not have a specific tag that can be attached to incident records in order to easily identify whether the incident occurred at a school/college/university or other educational establishment. In answer to your final question of how a location is recorded, this is done by the postcode.

In order to obtain the information you are requesting, we would need to identify the postcode of every educational establishment in Wiltshire and perform a manual search of each one to identify incidents that occurred in or around educational establishment. The gov.uk website records that there are 345 educational establishments in the Wiltshire area and to perform a manual search and retrieval on each of these facilities would take well over the legislative 18 hour time limit.

Under the circumstances I am absolutely confident that to locate, retrieve and extract the information you seek would by far exceed the time obligations upon this authority to comply, and in so doing would exceed the fees limits. This is set at £450 calculated at a flat rate of £25 per hour for those work activities comprising of confirming the information is held, locating it, retrieving it and extracting it.

Ordinarily under our section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you how to refine your request to a more manageable level. However, due to the difficulties outlined above, I cannot see how this can be achieved in this particular case. I can advise that there are offence codes that are specific to schools, however these are in reference to assaults with weapons only and this is the only reliable data we can obtain for schools at this time.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Wiltshire Police, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The exemption applicable to the information requested is:

Section 12: Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

- (1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

In accordance with section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this particular request.

I am satisfied that all the relevant information has been passed to me and been considered in the light of your request within the time constraints applicable under the legislation.

Wiltshire Police would like to thank you for the interest that you have shown in the Force.

Yours sincerely,

Ellie James

Disclosure Decision Maker

Wiltshire Police offers a re-examination of your case under its review procedure.



Force Disclosure Unit

Wiltshire Police HQ, London Road, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 2DN
Telephone 101 ext 62005

Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure

1. Who Can Ask for a Review

Any person who has requested information from Wiltshire Police, which has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act, is entitled to complain and request an internal review, if they are dissatisfied with the response they received.

2. How to Request a Review

Requests for review of a Freedom of Information request must be made in writing to the:
Force Disclosure Unit
Wiltshire Police Headquarters,
London Road, Devizes,
Wiltshire,
SN10 2DN

Email at disclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk.

The reference number, date of the request and details of why the review is being requested must be included. Requests for review should be brought to the attention of the Force Disclosure Unit within 20 working days of the Force's response to the original FoI request.

3. Review Procedure

Receipt of a request for review will be acknowledged in writing to include confirmation of the reasons for the review. The review will be conducted by another Decision Maker, who is independent from the original Decision Maker. The Force Disclosure Unit will set a target date for a response. The response will be made as soon as is practicable with the intention to complete the review within twenty working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to 40 working days.

The Independent Decision Maker will conduct a review of the handling of the request for information and of decisions taken, including decisions taken about where the public interest lies in respect of exempt information where applicable. The review enables a re-evaluation of the case, taking into account the matters raised by the complaint.

4. Conclusion of the Appeal

On completion of the review the Independent Decision Maker will reply to the complainant with the result of the review. If the complainant is still dissatisfied following the review they should contact the Information Commissioner to make an appeal. The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following details:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545 700
Fax: 01625 524 510
Email: mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk