

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

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

XXXXXX – by E mail

Date: 22nd March 2021

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2021 / 253

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 18th March 2021 concerning crimes under the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act.

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 – having consulted our Business Performance Team - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote (and our Response) :

1. Please provide the number of complaints you have received where men say their sperm has been 'stolen' ie used without consent and then a child has been born in each of the following calendar years:

- a. 2017
- b. 2018
- c. 2019
- d. 2020
- e. 2021 to date

We have no recorded instances of complaints made by men that their sperm has been “stolen” without their consent for any of the above years.

2. If possible can you please include any details on the nature of reported cases and also the outcome of the cases in each of the calendar years outlined above.

Not applicable by virtue of the answer to Q1.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

3. I understand this comes would be classed under the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act which has code of 99/99 please do a keyword search of the words "sperm" and "semen" for the following years and provide any details for the following years:

- a. 2017
- b. 2018
- c. 2019
- d. 2020
- e. 2021 to date

We have undertaken searches against HO Code 99/99 and it has returned no results that match your criteria above for any of the years in question.

We have also undertaken a "wildcard" or "free-text" search for the words "sperm" and "semen" against our crime summary logs for the years in question – again, this returned no result.

Please Note :-

"Wildcard" or "Free-text" searches are notoriously unreliable and – unless an applicant specifically asks for them – we do not normally provide information found using that methodology.

It is not possible for us to conduct such a search on the whole occurrence log, only the much abbreviated summary description of an occurrence.

The reasons why searches using this method are not reliable include (but are not limited to) the following :-

- a) Searches rely on the keywords being spelt correctly with no grammatical errors**
- b) Searches rely on the keywords actually being mentioned in the summary description of the offence – if they are mentioned in the longer full occurrence log but not in the summary, then they will not feature in any results**

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,

Nick Penny
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 Fol 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