

**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: 29th March 2021

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2021 / 291

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 28th March 2021 concerning Covid-related crimes and incidents.

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:

How many covid-related incidents (crimes with a covid tag as it were) have Wiltshire Police been called to since January 2020 ?

Could you include a breakdown of incidents per month, type of incident (Eg. Anti social behaviour) and by location (eg Marlborough/the area listed with the tag).

Our response:

Reports are made to Wiltshire Police by a number of sources – by phone, by word of mouth, from patrolling officers, by on-line reporting means etc.

These “reports” are what we term “incidents”. They are not all responded to – a decision is made after assessment as to whether a police attendance is required.

Once an incident has been attended, if a criminal offence has actually been committed then a crime record is created on our system(s). If no crime has occurred, then it remains classified as an “attended incident” on our system(s) for want of a better description.

You have asked for information from January 2020 – please note that we only started receiving reports related to Covid from late-February 2020.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Since February 2020, Wiltshire Police have received 13,578 reports from various means that have been flagged as being "Covid-related".

Of these, 1421 were then allocated for Police attendance.

Of these, 504 were then assessed as being true crimes that were flagged as being "Covid-related".

Please refer to the attached spreadsheet which shows the month and location (by Community Policy Area) for the Crimes and Incidents since February 2020 to date, split by Crime Group / Sub-Group as necessary.

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