



Force Disclosure Unit
Wiltshire Police HQ
London Road
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN
Tel 101 ext 62005
www.wiltshire.police.uk
disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

Date: 26th April 2021

Your Ref: FOI

Our Ref: FOI 2021/290

Reply contact name is: Kay Moore

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 28th March 2021 concerning individuals on the sex offender's register.

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:

- 1.) Please can you tell me how many individuals on the sex offender's register have contacted the police force to inform you of change of name by deed poll since 1 March 2011 to the present day.

Please provide a figure for each year.

- 2.) Please can you also tell me how many individuals on the sex offender's register have been arrested for failing to inform the police force about a name change by deed poll within the three days required by law since 1 March 2011. Please provide a figure for each year. If possible, please also tell me how many convictions were secured for this crime, with a figure given for each year.
- 3.) How many individuals on the sex offender's register has the force notified HM Passport Office about following a name change? Please provide a figure for each year since 1 March 2011.

Our response:

The information that you are requesting for the majority of your request (namely questions 2 and 3) is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.

In relation to Q2, our crime recording systems do not specifically hold occurrences where an individual on the sex offender's register has failed to notify us of a change of name. Our crime

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recording system will return a 'breach of notification requirements', but in order to find out more specific information with regards to what the breach is, this would involve manually going into each and every occurrence relating to breaches in order to ascertain whether we hold any information that may be relevant to your request.

Similarly to the above, in order to determine whether any referral has been made to HM Passport Office about an individual on the sex offender's register following a name change (Q3), this would involve a manual search through our crime recording systems from the 1st March 2011 to present. This is because there is no specific offence or crime tag that we can search on easily that would bring us back an accurate return of the information requested and carrying out a manual search would be a very time-consuming task.

Therefore, 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.

Although excess cost removes the forces' obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request. What I am able to provide you are the answers documented below –

- 1.) *Please can you tell me how many individuals on the sex offender's register have contacted the police force to inform you of change of name by deed poll since 1 March 2011 to the present day.*

Please provide a figure for each year.

2011	3
2012	3
2013	2
2014	10
2015	6
2016	9
2017	7
2018	8
2019	7
2020	6
2021	2

Ordinarily under our section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you how to refine your request in respect of questions 2 and 3, to a more manageable level. However, due to the difficulties outlined above, I cannot see how this can be achieved in this particular case.

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,

Kay Moore
Force 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