



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: 18/05/2021

Our ref: FOI 2021/376

I write in connection with your request for information dated 25/04/2021 concerning claim made by PCC candidate.

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.

Following receipt of your request, research was conducted by the Chief Constable's Office at Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and I am able to respond as follows.

You wrote and our Response:

I am writing with regards to a claim made by the Conservative Police and Crime Commissioner Candidate, Jonathon Seed on his social media accounts in which he claimed to have a fully costed plan for 100 extra officers, approved by both the Chief Constable and the Chief Finance Officer (Annex A).

It is my understanding that the budget which comprises mainly from Central Government and the Council precept form the basis of funding for Wiltshire Police. Thus I would assume that Mr Seed's budget is based upon the current level of funding.

It is also my understanding that the Chief Constable and Chief Finance Officer would of course be involved in decisions with the incumbent PCC

I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act:

1. Is the claim made by the Conservative PCC true, in that the Chief Constable and Chief Finance Officer have 'approved' a budget which was presented by Jonathon Seed.

No information held

Under our Section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, Wiltshire Police can provide the following statement: It is not the role of the Force to approve candidate manifestos or pledges, but to assist in discussing the feasibility and practicalities of such plans where invited to should that candidate take up the elected office of PCC and set the policing priorities for the Force.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

2. It is normal practise for the Chief Constable and Chief Finance Officer to approve would-be budgets of candidates as well as doing so for the incumbent PCC?

No information held

Under our Section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, Wiltshire Police can provide the following statement: All candidates running in the Wiltshire and Swindon Police and Crime Commissioner election are offered the same level of access to briefings with the Chief Constable and Deputy Chief Constable. The decision to take up the offer of briefings with the Force is a decision for each individual candidate. At these meetings the PCC candidate may choose to share their ideas and thinking with the Chief Constable and the Deputy Chief Constable. It is not the role of the Force to approve candidate manifestos or pledges, but to assist in discussing the feasibility and practicalities of such plans where invited to should that candidate take up the elected office of PCC and set the policing priorities for the Force.

3. Has the Chief Constable and Chief Finance Officer provided any of the other candidates with advice or approval in regard to spending plans should they be elected. If not, why not?

No information held

Under our Section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, Wiltshire Police can provide the following statement: All candidates running in the Wiltshire and Swindon Police and Crime Commissioner election are offered the same level of access to briefings with the Chief Constable and Deputy Chief Constable. The decision to take up the offer of briefings with the Force is a decision for each individual candidate. At the meetings the same briefing material is used to inform each candidate of matters relating to the Force.

4. Does Mr Seed's budget request a further increase in the police precept?

No information held

5. Can you please provide a copy of the approved budget as per Mr Seed's claim.

No information held

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

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.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

Please note that the ICO's offices will be closed for the foreseeable future and are therefore unable to receive correspondence via post.

If you should wish you contact them, please visit <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>