

**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 email

Date: 21st May 2021

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2021 / 460

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 20th May 2021 concerning Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Victims.

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:

How many detained persons have made a claim that they are a victim of

(a) modern slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour;

and

(b) human trafficking

in the financial year 2020-21 and each of the previous five years (2015-16 to 2019-20)?

Our response:

The information that you are requesting is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.

We do not record on our systems (in an easily searchable format or field per-se) whether any victim of either of the above offence types has made a specific claim that they are specifically a victim of (a) or (b) above.

The ascertaining of this information would only be possible by physically retrieving each and



every Crime Log related to the above offence types for the last 6 years and then reading the full occurrence log together with any statements provided by the relevant victims of these offences to determine whether or not they met your criteria or not.

Given that over the last 6 years Wiltshire Police have recorded nearly 260 individual crimes that relate to either Modern Slavery and/or Human Trafficking - and allowing a conservative estimate of 20 minutes per record - 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.

Please Note

- Even if searches of these records were undertaken, there is no guarantee that we could establish for definite whether or not an individual victim (out of a number of multiple victims associated with a given case) may or may not have specifically made an assertion that they were a victim of the crimes you mention.
- In a lot of cases these “victims” appear as a result of a Police Raid on suspected premises – individuals very rarely come forward of their own volition to report offences of this type.
- In a lot of cases the victims are so oppressed and frightened that they are either unwilling to make formal complaints for fear of subsequent reprisal / deportation etc.
- Any analysis produced by undertaking these searches would be likely to provide information that could not reasonably be relied upon to be truly representative. As such we would be loathe to place information of that nature in the public domain.

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.

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,

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