

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext. 62005

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

Date: 11 June 2021

Our ref: FOI 2021/441

Reply contact name is: Lloyd Tilbury

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 12th May 2021 concerning referrals to National Referral Mechanism.

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 Serious Organised Crime Unit and Media Department at Wiltshire Police.

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

You wrote:

Regarding the following raids:

(1)

<https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.swindonadvertiser.co.uk%2Fnews%2F18846086.5-due-court-connection-swindon-prostitution-ring%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cdisclosure%40wiltshire.police.uk%7C1d9762336ed04b4c6a7b08d91574866e%7C4e5729cf852d4510921251157ca27e3e%7C0%7C0%7C637564413099328010%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBtIl6lk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Coe66SluOG1ftl4xfLueWR4rp2zSxCfYRuxwQ9rOld8%3D&reserved=0>

(2)

<https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.bbc.co.uk%2Fnews%2Fuk-england-wiltshire-46295119&data=04%7C01%7Cdisclosure%40wiltshire.police.uk%7C1d9762336ed04b4c6a7b08d91574866e%7C4e5729cf852d4510921251157ca27e3e%7C0%7C0%7C637564413099328010%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBtIl6lk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=d8EI3JliMVtM90vc6xnNO8wvKbNYYdayVEldwZUlkME%3D&reserved=0>

Please could you tell me:

- 1) how many referrals to the National Referral Mechanism were made;



2) how many Duty to Notify submissions were made

Response:

Question One

Five

Question Two

Five

To provide you with some further context, I have also included the below press release from Wiltshire Police dated 21st November 2018:

Six people were arrested this morning during a covert operation in Swindon to tackle modern slavery and adult sexual exploitation.

This carefully planned multi-agency operation followed intelligence gathered over the course of 11 months, which identified workers in the off-street sex trade who were potentially being exploited by an organised crime gang.

Five people, all aged over 18, were identified as potential victims of modern slavery as part of this operation. They were immediately referred via the National Referral Mechanism to ensure that they were given accommodation and further support.

Three men, aged 23, 41 and 50, and three women, aged 22, 26 and 38, were arrested on suspicion of human trafficking, conspiracy to money launder and conspiracy to manage/assist in the management of a brothel used for prostitution.

They all remain in custody at Gablecross for further questioning.

Det Supt Jeremy Carter said: "The main reason for this operation was to identify vulnerable people being exploited in our communities by organised criminals and put a stop to it.

"Whilst Wiltshire remains one of the safest places to live and work in the country, we want to continue to raise awareness that slavery can, and does, happen in our communities and the public play a vital role in helping us stop it.

"Today has been a real team effort. We have worked closely with our partners to not only identify the threats posed to vulnerable people in our communities but also to provide safeguarding for them and bring offenders to justice.

"Working together as part of the Swindon and Wiltshire Anti-Slavery Partnership is vital in bringing everyone together to put a stop to slavery in our communities. Modern Slavery is an emerging and ever-changing area of crime so we need to be on the front-foot, build up a picture of what is happening and deploy our resources to tackle the issues."

Det Insp Mark Wilkinson added: "The public can help make it harder for people that want to exploit others by being vigilant. For example, if they see a stream of different men visiting an address at all hours of the day or night it may be an indicator that the address is being used as a brothel. They might see workers appear to be distressed, anxious, disorientated, or withdrawn. They could be potential victims of human trafficking or other exploitation.

"Intelligence from members of the public is critical – I would urge the public to be aware of the potential signs of exploitation and use that information to report their concerns either directly to us via 101 or by contacting Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111."

Police and Crime Commissioner Angus Macpherson attended this morning's raids. He said: "The police and partner agencies are right to engage in the fight against modern slavery. They have the expertise to keep watch on places where they believe such abusive crimes are being committed.

"But we cannot leave it to the police to rid our communities of this evil trade which causes such misery.

"We all need to be the eyes and ears of the police, which is why detectives have developed the #TellUsWhatYouSee campaign. It is our responsibility as active citizens to raise any concerns we might have about someone we think might be suffering such abuse.

"Today's operation shows that police will act on intelligence to rescue vulnerable victims and take into custody those suspected of exploiting them."

We understand that there may be occasions where people want to report something but want to do so anonymously or independently of the police. They can call the Modern Slavery Helpline on 08000 121 700. Of course, we would always recommend that they report it to the police as the more we know, the more we are able to help. We take all reports of these offences extremely seriously.

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

Lloyd Tilbury
Principal 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/>