

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

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

XXXXXXXXXX

By Email

Date: 20th July 2021

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2021/563

Reply contact name is: Abigail Standidge

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 2nd July 2021 concerning Disaster Victim Identification (DVI).

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 Force Operations Sergeant and Major Incident Planning Manager at Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and am not able to respond in full to you.

You wrote:

Could I please request documents related to Disaster Victim Identification (DVI). Namely;

1. Record of officers training in DVI, any course. Not names specifically, but numbers of officers and type of training.
2. Records of refresher training in DVI (any course, again numbers not names).
3. A copy of the force's DVI Capability statement.
4. A copy of the force's (DVI) quality manual if you have one.
5. Does your force have a method of reviewing (DVI) feedback from customers? This could be in practice scenarios, or from live events.

Clarification received 06/07/2021

1. Is there a specific date range you are interested in for the purposes of this request? This will allow the relevant department to complete a more accurate search.

if you document training by financial year, then 20/21 is fine, if by calendar year then 2020 please.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

2. Training / refresher training - this is interpreted as being the number of officers within Wiltshire Police, as opposed to the training the Force may provide to officers from other Forces. Is this correct?

Just Wiltshire please. I have made requests to all forces for their records.

3. Types of training - are you able to confirm whether there is a specific course name / supplier you are interested in? This question is quite broad and the DVI process encompasses numerous areas (i.e. forensic science, scene and post incident management etc), this may therefore assist the relevant department with responding to your request.

I'm mainly researching body recovery, so any DVI body recovery team officers, SERM's, SIM's and PMOC.

Our response:

I have considered your request for information and I am not obliged to supply you with information regarding the number of officers trained - whether this is currently, previously or who have completed refresher training - by virtue of the following exemption:

Section 31(1)(a)(b)

Law Enforcement

Section 31 is a qualified prejudice-based exemption and therefore requires Wiltshire Police to establish the harm in disclosure, along with the public interest favouring and against disclosure.

Harm test

Disclosure of information relating to the number of officers trained in DVI, whether currently or previously including those who have received refresher training, would undermine the core principles of policing i.e. to prevent and detect crime. Putting this information into the public domain could cause substantial harm for policing operations and all individuals involved, i.e. Police employees and the wider community. By disclosing this information, Wiltshire Police would prejudice our ability to prevent and detect crime, and to apprehend and prosecute offenders; as information would be provided to the offenders and they can use this to evade detection, therefore negatively affecting the Force's ability to protect the community.

Factors favouring disclosure

Disclosing this information into the public domain would ensure the Force are being open and transparent with the public, allowing for the Force to be held accountable for its actions. Providing this information would ensure the public are fully informed regarding DVI officers in their Force area. This in turn may result in a reduction in crime and more information being supplied by the public, allowing the public to better protect themselves against crime.

Factors against disclosure

Providing the number of officers trained in DVI would allow those who seek to commit criminal acts the ability to understand the operational capabilities of Wiltshire Police, and potentially other Police Forces. This would seriously hinder the prevention and detection of crime, and compromise investigations. By providing these individuals with the knowledge to determine which areas are most vulnerable, they can use this information to plan criminal acts and avoid detection. If offenders avoid detection, this places the public at a greater risk and subsequently a diminishing trust in the Force and an increase of crime will be seen.

Balance test

Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency and openness between the Force and the public, along with demonstrating how the Force are engaging with the threat from criminals, there

is a stronger interest in ensuring the public are protected from these individuals. The public also expect the Force to ensure the enforcement of the law, and the prevention and detection of crime, is upheld. Disclosing information that is likely to assist offenders would seriously undermine the effective delivery of operational law enforcement, and is therefore exempt from disclosure.

However, under our Section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, I have provided the following information. I trust this is helpful for your request.

1. Record of officers training in DVI, any course. Not names specifically, but numbers of officers and type of training.

Type of training - College of Policing DVI Foundation Training

2. Records of refresher training in DVI (any course, again numbers not names).

Please note this information is being provided outside the constraints of the FOIA, as it is felt it would be unreasonable to not provide you with some form of a response to this part of the request.

College of Policing DVI Foundation trained personnel must complete refresher training, which is mandatory every two years.

3. A copy of the force's DVI Capability statement.

No information held - Each Force contributes to a regional and national capability coordinated by the National DVI Steering Group.

4. A copy of the force's (DVI) quality manual if you have one.

No information held - All Forces comply with the College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice - <https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/civil-emergencies/disaster-victim-identification/dvi-roles-and-responsibilities/>.

5. Does your force have a method of reviewing (DVI) feedback from customers? This could be in practice scenarios, or from live events.

DVI do not deal with the family of the deceased. Partner agencies will have a method of reviewing feedback.

Please note this information is being provided outside the constraints of the FOIA, as it is felt it would be unreasonable to not provide you with some form of a response to this part of the request.

All operational deployments are subject to a formal debrief

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Constabulary, when refusing to provide 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.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice for those aspects of your request.

Exemptions applied:

Section 31(1)(a)(b) Law Enforcement

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,

Abigail Standidge
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

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 to contact them, please visit <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>

