

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ
London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire SN10 2DN

Telephone: 101

Extension: 62005

Website: www.wiltshire.police.uk

E-mail:

disclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk



XXXXXXXX

By email

Date: 29 July 2021

Your ref: FOI request

Our ref: FOI 2021/577

Reply contact name is Abigail Standidge

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated the 6th July 2021, concerning Child Protection Notices, CCE, CSE, child neglect and missing children.

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 Public Protection Department - Exploitation at Wiltshire Police. Your request for information has now been considered and I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

You wrote:

How many Section 46 (of the Childrens Act 1989) Emergency Police Child Protection Notices your force has activated in each of the following years, ie where your force has taken removed children to a safe location to protect them from significant harm:

April 2018 - Mar 2019

April 2019 - Mar 2020

April 2020 - Mar 2021

How many children did your force flag as at 'moderate or high / significant risk of Child Criminal Exploitation' (ie where children are at a level of risk which requires referral to LA Children's Services) in each of the following years:

April 2018 - Mar 2019

April 2019 - Mar 2020

April 2020 - Mar 2021

How many children did your force flag as at 'moderate or high / significant risk of Child Sexual Exploitation' (ie where children are at a level of risk which requires referral to LA Children's Services) in each of the following years:

April 2018 - Mar 2019



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

April 2019 - Mar 2020

April 2020 - Mar 2021

How many incidents of Child Neglect did your force log in each of the following years:

April 2018 - Mar 2019

April 2019 - Mar 2020

April 2020 - Mar 2021

How many missing children (aged 17 and under) incidents have been reported by your force in each of the following years, and of those children, how many remain missing (cases are still open as of 31st Mar 2021):

April 2018 - Mar 2019

April 2019 - Mar 2020

April 2020 - Mar 2021

Our response:

The information you are requesting, regarding to question 1 of your request, is not stored in a way which permits for easy retrieval. Police Protection Orders are not recorded on an individual Niche occurrence; they would be recorded on an admin / concern for welfare / domestic abuse etc Niche occurrence. To accurately provide figures for this question, thousands of occurrence records would need to be manually reviewed from April 2018 to March 2021.

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. Therefore the whole of the request should fall under the exemption of section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please also note that if one part of the request engages a Section 12 response, the whole request will engage a Section 12 response. The reason being is due to the fact that locating, retrieving and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations.

Ordinarily under our Section 16 obligation to provide advice and assistance we would advise you of a way to refine your request to a more manageable level. Due to the difficulties in obtaining the requested information, as outlined above, I cannot think of a way in which this could be achieved.

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 can provide you with is documented below:

How many children did your force flag as at 'moderate or high / significant risk of Child Criminal Exploitation' (ie where children are at a level of risk which requires referral to LA Children's Services) in each of the following years:

April 2018 - Mar 2019

April 2019 - Mar 2020

April 2020 - Mar 2021

Wiltshire Police do not currently have a dedicated flag for Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE). However, this has been requested and authorised, and is awaiting implementation on Niche.

How many children did your force flag as at 'moderate or high / significant risk of Child Sexual Exploitation' (ie where children are at a level of risk which requires referral to LA Children's Services) in each of the following years:

April 2018 - Mar 2019 163 crimes // 235 incidents

April 2019 - Mar 2020 337 crimes // 544 incidents

April 2020 - Mar 2021 303 crimes // 580 incidents

Please note: QlikSense will only look at the occurrences (crimes, incidents etc) that a flagged child has been added to; it does not record the number of flags that are linked to an individual child. Additionally, the flag does not specify if the child is at low / moderate / high risk of Child Sexual Exploitation, and therefore these figures represent all occurrences which have a CSE flag.

How many incidents of Child Neglect did your force log in each of the following years:

April 2018 - Mar 2019 50 crimes

April 2019 - Mar 2020 60 crimes

April 2020 - Mar 2021 45 crimes

Please note: This data is based on the Home Office Counting Rules 011/03: Cruelty to and neglect of children. To accurately provide figures for all incidents of child neglect, a manual review of thousands of records would need to be conducted.

How many missing children (aged 17 and under) incidents have been reported by your force in each of the following years, and of those children, how many remain missing (cases are still open as of 31st Mar 2021):

April 2018 - Mar 2019 1705 incidents involving 679 children

April 2019 - Mar 2020 1403 incidents involving 614 children

April 2020 - Mar 2021 995 incidents involving 376 children

As of 15/07/2021, 5 children are still missing from the April 2018 - March 2021 period; 4 of these children are from the same family.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires 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.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss the withheld information.

Yours sincerely

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