



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: 30 June 2021

Our ref: FOI 2021/374

Reply contact name is: Lloyd Tilbury

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 23rd May 2021 concerning police drug offences.

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 Professional Standards Department and Counter Corruption Unit at Wiltshire Police.

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

You wrote:

- 1) How many police officers have been reported for drug offences for each year 2016-20?
- 2) How many police officers have been dismissed for drug offences for each year 2016-20?
- 3) How many police officers have been arrested for drug offences for each year 2016-20? As an extra - if possible within compliance limits - Can you provide any details of the outcome of that arrest?
- 4) Can you provide any details that you have in place to ensure an impartial response when police officers are reported for drug offences?

Basically I want to clarify that by "reported for drug offences", I mean any record that exists on your files (accessible within compliance limits) detailing intelligence of a police officer having taken an illegal drug. It does not have to be a formal report/summons/caution.

I would love to ask the same questions again but generally for any members of police staff.

Response:

Question One
Zero



Question Two

Zero

Question Three

Zero

Question Four

The below explanation was provided by the Professional Standards Department of Wiltshire Police:

Wiltshire Police deal with all offences whether the suspects are police officers, police staff or members of the public. To ensure there is an impartial response, Professional Standards has two departments whose sole role is to investigate internal conduct matters and public complaints.

These departments are the Professional Standards Department (PSD) and the Counter-Corruption Unit (CCU). Both units have a Detective Inspector in charge and the departments are both managed by a Superintendent (Head of Professional Standards).

The departments work in line with the Police (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2020 and the Police (Conduct) Regulations 2020.

Robust action is always taken when criminal or misconduct matters are identified.

Further to the information requested above, I would like to reassure the person requesting that should an officer or staff member be dealt with for drug offences in another area, we have processes as below:

Wiltshire Police follows the College of Policing Vetting Authorised Professional Practice (APP). This APP provides guidance to ensure both new joiners and existing staff (police officers, staff, volunteers and contractors) are vetted. This vetting includes a PNC/PND check which would identify criminal prosecutions, arrest etc... Not all offences would preclude someone from working within the police service, as an example someone arrested for a minor offence in 1980 as a teenager is unlikely to fail vetting in 2021 if they have been otherwise of good character.

Individuals are then reviewed at set periods as per the APP Vetting and the Vetting Code of Practice. This would identify any subsequent arrests/convictions if we were not made aware by the applicant/new joiner. There are internal processes in place whereby staff/officers must notify of arrests/convictions/speeding offences etc... in fact if they fail to inform us, they would be subject to a misconduct investigation for honesty and integrity, as well as the likely discreditable conduct. There is also an annual Integrity Health Check at the point of annual performance reviews (ePDRs). The ePDR is completed for all officers and staff by the end of the financial year and allows for an opportunity to review the individual's personal circumstances.

What we do not hold is a list of officers/staff that do hold a prior conviction, it will be on PNC/PND still and it would be referred to within the Vetting report within our vetting database. If officers or staff become the suspect in a criminal investigation, there would be a parallel misconduct investigation and that would therefore hold the details of the crime. In most cases, officers or staff subject to a criminal investigation are suspended from the Force whilst that investigation takes place. Following the criminal matter being dealt, in most cases a misconduct investigation will follow.

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/>