



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: 16th December 2021

Your Ref: FOI

Our Ref: FOI 2021/955

Reply contact name is: Kay Moore

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 13th November 2021 concerning homicide rates.

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 after having consulted the Major Crimes Investigation Team, People Services and South West Forensics – I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote and our response:

1. What were the reported homicide rates in your area between the 31st of October 2016 and the 31st of October 2021?
10 homicides.
2. What are the reported homicide rates in the same period in your area per 100000 people?
Unknown.
3. What are the homicide clearance rates in the same period in your area?
(Clarification received – 24/11/21: 'For Q3, by clearance rates I meant the number of homicide cases that resulted in a conviction'.)
9 convictions have been made.
4. For each reported homicide, please specify the date when it was reported, the place where it took place (town/postcode), if solved, the date when it was cleared, the type of homicide (murder/manslaughter) and if any case is a domestic homicide, infanticide or criminally negligent manslaughter.
 - **10/12/2016, Swindon, solved, suspect pleaded guilty to murder and was sentenced 11/05/2017. Domestic.**
 - **12/03/2017, Trowbridge, solved, suspect acquitted of murder/manslaughter but found guilty of possession of bladed article 21/09/2017.**

- 25/03/2017, Swindon, solved, suspect convicted of manslaughter 04/06/2019. Infant.
- 10/05/2017, Chippenham, solved, suspect pleaded guilty to murder, sentenced 14/11/2017.
- 09/07/2018, Swindon, solved, suspect convicted manslaughter 03/06/2019.
- 03/05/2019, Calne, solved, suspect pleaded guilty to murder and was sentenced 08/11/2019.
- 21/06/2019, Slip Rd. A303, solved, suspect pleaded to manslaughter and was sentenced 10/01/2020.
- 17/12/2019, Devizes – this is an open and live investigation and nothing further can be disclosed at this stage as in doing so will incur additional exemptions (Section 30 – Investigations and proceedings).
- 01/06/2020, Salisbury, solved, suspect convicted of murder x 2 and sentenced 18/12/2020.

5. How many investigators are usually involved in the homicide investigation process?
Impossible to say as each investigation is different. We are also tri-force (Op Brunel) so we have Investigators from A&S and Glospol assisting when required.
6. What is the homicide investigators' average length of service (as detectives) at the time of the homicide investigations in the period mentioned in the first question?
This is unknown because we have no way of working out this information.
7. What is the average salary of homicide investigators working for your police force?
Unknown as we have a mix of Detective Constable's and civilian Investigators. Civilian Investigators who are fully trained are W8 (salary currently ranges from £28,443 – £29,934) and a Constable's salary would depend on how long they have been serving for and when they started.
8. Are you working with external law enforcement agencies and specialised police units (for example, dog units, drug squad) when conducting a homicide investigation? If yes, please specify them.
Yes. Various such as Dogs, CSI, POLSA (Police Search Adviser), ARG (Armed Response Group), Divers etc.
9. Are you working with an external or an internal forensics laboratory?
Within South West Forensics we have an internal Forensic Enhancement Laboratory and we also work with external laboratories.
10. Is your force police using forensic digital analysis data, such as database forensics, computer/mobile/network forensics, within the homicide investigation process? Please specify the types of forensics used.
Information about this topic can be found readily available in the public domain and is therefore exempt under S21 – Information Reasonably Accessible by Other Means.

The College of Policing website provides a response captured by this question – please see the following link for more information:
<https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/investigations/forensics/#digital-forensics>.

11. What is the average cost of the forensic laboratories' equipment such as analytical balances, moisture analysers, microscopes, spectrometers used in homicide investigations?

We are unable to provide “average” figures. Equipment within the lab is used for all crime types not specifically homicide. Lab equipment has been purchased over the lifetime of the laboratory and replaced as and when necessary.

12. What is the average number of forensic laboratories' staff working on homicide investigations in a year? (either for the period mentioned in the first question or for the 31st of October 2020- the 31st of October 2021 period)

We are unable to provide “average” figures. Staff within the Laboratory are not tasked by offence but work on all crime types.

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.

Exemption applied:

Section 21 – Information Reasonably Accessible by Other Means

In accordance with section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a partial 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,

Kay Moore
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.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