



Force Disclosure Unit

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.uk

disclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Date: 30th November 2021

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2021 / 960

I write in connection with your request for information dated 15th November concerning open cases within Wiltshire Police.

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 I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

You wrote:

1. How many open (i.e. pre-charge but ongoing) criminal investigations were you conducting as at the 1st November 2021?
2. Of those investigations, how many were commenced between 2nd November 2020 and 1st November 2021 and were thus less than one year old?
3. Of those investigations, how many were commenced between 2nd November 2019 and 1st November 2020 and were thus between one and two years old?
4. Of those investigations, how many were commenced between 2nd November 2018 and 1st November 2019 and were thus between two and three years old?
5. Of those investigations, how many were commenced between 2nd November 2017 and 1st November 2018 and were thus between three and four years old?
6. Of those investigations, how many were commenced before 2nd November 2016 and were thus more than 5 years old?
7. Do you routinely record and hold data on how many long lasting investigations are being conducted? If so:
 - a. What is your definition of a long lasting investigation?
 - b. When did you begin recording that data?



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Our response:

The information that you are requesting is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval. Wiltshire Police currently do not have the capability within our systems to accurately detail if an investigation logs is open or closed. Although we do have the function for logs to be closed, opened, live ect; there are not automatically closed. Meaning that there is in many cases 'live' logs still open, despite the case being closed. Thus, in order to accurately obtain the information you seek, we would have to manually sift through every investigation to check if it was still ongoing, or formally closed.

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.

Normally under our section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you how to refine your request to a more manageable level. However, in this case, we do not believe that is possible due to the circumstances surrounding this request.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the 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.

Wiltshire Police would like to thank you for the interest that you have shown in the Force.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Tenniswood
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