



## Force Disclosure Unit

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

[www.wiltshire.police.uk](http://www.wiltshire.police.uk)

[disclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:disclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2022 / 002

Reply contact name is:

Dear \*\*\*\*,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 concerning Abuse of Position.

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 having consulted Our Professional Standard Department and our Force Policy Officer I am now able to respond as follows.

### You wrote/Our response:

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire & Rescue Services (2019) states that forces can increase public trust and confidence in policing through open and honest reporting. Publishing the circumstances of cases where staff and officers have been dismissed for Abuse of Position for a Sexual Purpose sends a clear message that victims will be supported if they come forward. It raises awareness of this type of corruption and shows that the force is taking a robust stance.

As such, please provide the following information:

1. The total number of reports of Abuse of Position for a Sexual Purpose submitted to your force between 01/01/2019 and 31/12/2021 inclusive. **18 Reports**
2. The number of reports of Abuse of Position for a Sexual Purpose submitted to your force between 01/01/2019 and 31/12/2021 inclusive that were made by members of the public. **11 Reports.**
3. The number of reports of Abuse of Position for a Sexual Purpose submitted to your force between 01/01/2019 and 31/12/2021 inclusive that were made by police officers and staff. **7 Reports.**
4. All misconduct hearing outcomes for your force for the period 01/01/2019 to 31/12/2021 inclusive.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

## **2019**

- Police Sergeant – hearing re standard of driving – final written warning
- Police Officer – hearing re off duty conduct – final written warning

For the following years 2020 and 2021 The information you are requesting is exempt by virtue of Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information accessible to applicant by other means.

The information you seek can be found on the following links:

## **2020**

- [Wiltshire PC sacked for kissing passenger in police car - BBC News](#)
- [Wiltshire Police inspector given final warning over fatal crash - BBC News](#)
- **Private hearing Special Constable dismissed for breaching standards of professional behaviour in regard to honesty and integrity.**
- [Trowbridge special constable who had pornographic pictures of babies gets suspended sentence | Wiltshire Times](#)

## **2021**

- [PC Darren Thorn | Wiltshire Police](#)
- [PC who sent offensive image guilty of gross misconduct | This Is Wiltshire](#)
- [Wiltshire Police officer who sexually assaulted colleague dismissed - BBC News](#)
- [Former Wiltshire Police detective found guilty of misconduct towards female officers | ITV News West Country](#)
- [Special Constable Owen Pugh | Wiltshire Police](#)

5. The number of police officers and staff employed by your force who were dismissed for Abuse of Position for a Sexual Purpose between 01/01/2019 and 31/12/2021 inclusive, and the circumstances of these cases.

Again, for the requested time period the information you are requesting is exempt by virtue of Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information accessible to applicant by other means.

**2 - The information you seek can be found on the following links:**

- **2020** [Wiltshire PC sacked for kissing passenger in police car - BBC News](#)
- **2021** [PC Darren Thorn | Wiltshire Police](#)

6. Whether your force's policy on Abuse of Position for a Sexual Purpose has been revised following the sentencing of former police officer Wayne Couzens.

**No - We operate to the College of Policing Code of Ethics (code 2.3 applies to this question) and the NPCC Strategy on police officers and staff who abuse their position for a sexual purpose (see attached). This is a national strategy, and we are not aware of any proposals to up date this following the sentencing of former police officer Wayne Couzens.**

**Intimate relationships with any members of the public where contact was established for a policing purpose or on police business (even where the contact for a policing purpose has now ceased) is a reportable association under the Forces Reportable Associations Policy and Procedure. A failure to report such a relationship would be a breach of policy.**

7. A copy of your force's current Abuse of Position for a Sexual Purpose policy.

**See above.**

8. A copy of your force's Notifiable Associations policy.

**Notifiable associations is dealt with by the Reportable Associations Policy and Procedure (see attached).**

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 21 – Information accessible to the applicant 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,

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](mailto: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](mailto:mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk)