



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

XXXXXX – by E mail

Date: 20th January 2022

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2022 / 029

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 10th January 2022 concerning Emergency Boarding-Up Policy.

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 Force Operations Team - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote (and Our Response) :

1. Please provide me with a copy of your emergency boarding up policy. This will detail how your force intends to secure a property in the event that it has to force entry.

Wiltshire Police do not have a specific Emergency Boarding Up Policy.

2. Please could you also answer the following questions, unless they are contained within the policy :-

- a) In what circumstances will officers force entry to a property?

This is usually down to the officer wanting to force entry and is usually of a welfare/saving life scenario. Another reason may be as part of a pre-planned warrant. Under PACE and other Policing powers, Police Officers have the power to force entry for a variety of reasons should the situation be deemed appropriate by the officers and legal in nature - ultimately, the utilisation of force in order to enter a property. Whilst this is often linked to welfare concerns, there is also often utilisation for entry for arresting known suspects and for collating



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

evidence such as through the execution of drug warrants. Police powers of entry are specified within PACE.

- b) If entry is forced, will emergency boarding up always be provided? If it won't, please explain why

If the person is present we will try to get them to organise boarding up, however if there is no-one at the address we will organise boarding up (for example the officer has a concern that there is someone in the property in need of help, only to find it empty). However, if the Police are acting legitimately and lawfully the responsibility for boarding up may sit with the owners of the premise as a private matter, rather than responsibility sitting with emergency boarding up. Should an individual wish, they may explore a claim through the force litigation department who will assess the situation and come to a determination.

- c) In which circumstances will the police pay for the costs of boarding up? And in which circumstances will they not?

The Police will only pay for properties where they gain entry for warrant and search. All other properties are at the owner's expense.

- d) Who provides the emergency boarding up service?

Wiltshire Police use a national boarding up service to do this.

- e) If the property is inhabited, are the inhabitants given keys to re-enter the property, or are they boarded out?

This depends on the damage sustained, but there is no requirement to leave an working opening. If locks are replaced, the keys are taken to the local Police station.

- f) How are inhabitants notified that it is the police who have forced entry to their property?

The national boarding up company leave a sticker on the board or front door of every property with a reference and contact number that they visit and a job sheet with contact details on the inside. Full details on how to contact the Police are provided by them.

- g) How soon after forced entry is the emergency boarding up provided?

This is dependent on the situation and what is found after the entry has taken place.

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,

Nick Penny
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