

**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)

XXXXXX – by E mail

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2022 / 049

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022 concerning Reviews of Homicide and Missing Persons Investigations.

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 Major Crime Investigation Team and Missing Persons Team - I am now able to respond as follows.

**You wrote (and Our Response) :**

Your response will help to inform research being undertaken by the XXXXXX, exploring if and how processes and practices for reviewing both homicide investigations and missing persons differ across police services in England, Wales and Scotland.

1) Do you have a specific policy in place for reviewing homicide investigations? (yes or no).

**Yes**

2) Do you have a designated review team, e.g. Major Crime Review Team, Cold Case Unit? (yes or no). If yes, please specify the name of the team/unit/department.

**Yes – Major Crime Review Officer**

3) Which types of review might you conduct for homicide investigations? Please respond yes or no to each of the following. Where reviews are undertaken, please specify all individuals who might be involved in the review, e.g. Senior Investigating Officer, Review Officer, Forensic Scientist, Crime Scene Manager, etc.:

a) 72 hours? If yes, please specify who might be involved in the review.

**Reviewed by Wiltshire Police PIP III qualified SIO (Senior Investigating Officer). Strategies to be reviewed include Intelligence, CCTV, Forensics, Disclosure, Media, Witnesses, Gold (Senior Leadership Group) considerations, and so on, together with involvement of any relevant non-Police professionals.**

b) 7-10 days? If yes, please specify who might be involved in the review.

**If undetected or offenders are still outstanding, a second review as described in “a” is conducted.**

c) 28 days? If yes, please specify who might be involved in the review.

**Major Crime Review Officer conducts a further review.**

**Note :-**

**After 56 days - Reviewed by Wiltshire Police once again as per “a” above.**

**After 84 days - Seek external review (utilising College of Policing, different force etc)**

d) Cold case review? If yes, please specify who might be involved in the review.

**Yes - SIO (Senior Investigating Officer), Forensic scientists, case officer, relevant experts.**

e) Conclusion (may also be known as a debrief)? If yes, please specify who might be involved in the review.

**Yes, a review would be undertaken in conjunction with Wiltshire Police PIP III qualified SIO (Senior Investigating Officer) to consider Data Files, MOPI (Management of Police Information), Threats, etc.**

**This includes a planned De-brief, Cascaded Learning etc and would include involvement with relevant other professionals (Police or otherwise).**

f) Other? If yes, please specify the type of review and who might be involved.

**Not applicable.**

4) Do you have a specific policy in place for reviewing missing people? (yes or no).

**Yes.**

5) Which role or team have responsibility for reviewing missing people? (please specify).

**The Missing Person's Team at Wiltshire Police have responsibility for reviewing missing people, in conjunction with – if required (and after a specific period of time) – our regional Major Crimes Investigation Team.**

6) At what point might you review a missing person? (please specify, indicating, for example, how this is based on risk and/or period missing or other factors).

**With regards to when reviews of Missing People are undertaken and at which point, please refer to the attached supplementary.**

7) Do you have an independent case review panel or independent members who are involved in reviews of homicide investigations and/or missing people? (yes/no). If yes, please specify which kinds of review they are involved in.

**With regards to Homicide Investigations, yes - the Major Crime Review Officer is independent from the Major Crime Investigation Team.**

**With regards to Missing Persons Investigations, no – there is not any specific independent peer review for missing cases per-se.**

**That said, within force we have a case review officer who can carry out reviews of serious and complex investigations which can include missing cases if relevant, this was recently carried out in relation to a long term missing case.**

**In addition, we also have an audit team within the Public Protection Department which can review specific cases that are highlighted to them to understand learning and best practice.**

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.



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Wiltshire Police HQ, London Road, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 2DN

## **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)