

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.ukdisclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.ukDate: 10th February 2022

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2022 / 070

Reply contact name is:

Dear ****,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 20th January 2022 concerning Disciplinary Hearings relating to Abuse of Power for purposes of sexual exploitation.

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 Standards Department I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote/Our response:

Please can you answer the following questions for each of these time periods: 2018 (calendar year); 2019 (calendar year); 2020 (calendar year) and 2021 (calendar year):

1) How many disciplinary hearings relating to an officer being accused of abusing their power for purposes of sexual exploitation were held by your force over the requested period?

Please break down this information in terms of the rank of the officer accused of such an offence (for example, but not limited to: police constable, police sergeant, senior officer); a brief description of the offence (for example, but not limited to: attempting to form an inappropriate relationship with a vulnerable woman on the course of duty); if this was a complaint from a member of the public or an internal referral; the outcome in each case (for example, but not limited to: dismissal from force without notice) with rank included; the gender of the accused officer.

I understand if some details have to be withheld but others should be allowed under the act to be disclosed. Please would you be so kind as to act in a spirit of transparency.

Whilst under s1(1)a of the Act 2000 Wiltshire Police can confirm that they hold the requested information, it is exempt by virtue of s21 (Information easily Accessible Elsewhere).

Please use the following links:



2020

Wiltshire PC sacked for kissing passenger in police car - BBC News

2021

PC Darren Thorn | Wiltshire Police

2) For each of the time periods, please tell me how many of the accused officers were granted anonymity at the misconduct hearing (telling me- for each case they were granted anonymity- the details of the offence they were charged with; the outcome of the hearing; the gender of the officer; the reason the presiding panel chair person gave for granting anonymity at the misconduct hearing (along with the name of the presiding officer).

No officers were granted anonymity in relation to abuse of position for a sexual purpose.

3) Please could you also provide information on the misconduct panel chair (i.e. their name and gender) for all the misconduct hearings where anonymity was not granted to the accused officer(s).

We have not had any hearings where anonymity has been refused.

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 21 (Information easily Accessible Elsewhere).**

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.

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