



Force Disclosure Unit

Wiltshire Police HQ
London Road
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN
Tel 101 ext. 62005

Website: www.wiltshire.police.uk

Email: disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk



XXXXXXXXX
By email

Date: 14th February 2022

Our ref: FOI 2022/138

Reply contact name is: Abigail Standidge

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 9th February 2022, concerning detention under s136 Mental Health Act.

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.

Following receipt of your request, research was conducted by the Partnership Sgt for Mental Health at Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and I am able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

My main research interest concerns the involvement of the police with people who are mentally ill.

I have been researching the detention of people who are mentally ill or in crisis through Section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983. Many attempts have, over recent years, been made to reduce the number of people who are detained under this provision

In this context I wish to make a freedom of information request.

Forces have adopted many different interventions to try and prevent these detentions. I have set out below several of these. I would like to ask under the FOI, which of these - if any - are in operation in your force area. You may also operate more than one for example it may be different in rural and urban areas, or it may differ in different Health Authority areas. It may also be that you operate something else altogether, in which case could I ask what for a brief description of it.

The 3 commonest interventions include:

1. Highly trained police officers who respond to mental health incidents.
2. Joint 'triage' patrols of police officers and mental health professionals who respond to incidents.
3. A telephone 'triage' system where officers can ring a mental health professional when they are dealing with someone who is mentally ill to seek advice before they detain someone.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Our Response:

No information held.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, there is not a requirement for a public authority to create data in order to provide a response to a request for information. The information needed to provide a response to this request is not held, and therefore the information would need to be provided off the knowledge of the Partnership Sgt for Mental Health.

Overall, dealing with vulnerable individuals due to Mental Health concerns is very much a local issue, regarding the practicalities of what can be achieved in each local Force area. This is likely taken in consideration of the measures and guidance readily available via the College of Policing - [Introduction and strategic considerations \(college.police.uk\)](https://www.college.police.uk/).

Please note:- The following information is being provided outside of the constraints of the FOIA, as we felt it would be unreasonable not to provide you with a response to this request.

Forces have adopted many different interventions to try and prevent these detentions. I have set out below several of these. I would like to ask under the FOI, which of these - if any - are in operation in your force area. You may also operate more than one for example it may be different in rural and urban areas, or it may differ in different Health Authority areas. It may also be that you operate something else altogether, in which case could I ask what for a brief description of it.

The 3 commonest interventions include:

1. Highly trained police officers who respond to mental health incidents.

Whilst we are currently providing additional mental health training to a small cohort of officers, we do not have the resources to ensure only such officers are tasked to respond to such incidents. We are a small, rural Force and it simply would not be viable to be able to rely on specific officers to attend mental health incidents. The officers with additional training are available to advise colleagues where required.

2. Joint 'triage' patrols of police officers and mental health professionals who respond to incidents.

This is not in place.

3. A telephone 'triage' system where officers can ring a mental health professional when they are dealing with someone who is mentally ill to seek advice before they detain someone.

This is provided by our mental health control room triage scheme where a mental health nurse is located in the police control room.

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,

Abigail Standidge
Force 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
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.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

Please note that the ICO's offices will be closed for the foreseeable future and are therefore unable to receive correspondence via post.

If you should wish you contact them, please visit <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>