

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.ukdisclosure@wiltshire.police.ukDate: 22nd October 2021

Your Ref: FOI

Our Ref: FOI 2021/827

Reply contact name is: Kay Moore

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 13th October 2021 concerning reports of rape.

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 I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

You wrote:

- 1.) Can I ask for the last two years (2019 and 2020) how many reported rapes there have been? How many of those reported led to a conviction?
- 2.) Can I ask for the total time which police interviewed the victims/alleged victims of the these crimes during this period and the total time which police interviewed suspects/perpetrators?
- 3.) If the total time of interviews is not possible to obtain, can I ask for the length of ten police interviews of alleged rape victims' interviews? Can I ask then for the length of ten police interviews of rape suspects?

Our response:

The information that you are requesting (namely question 2) is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.

In order for us to obtain the total time in which victims and suspects have been interviewed over the course of 2019 and 2020, would involve us having to manually go into each report relating to an allegation of rape to then find the total time in which the victim and suspect may have been interviewed for. As a result of this, this would take us well over the allocated time frame we have to complete your request within and is therefore, exempt from disclosure.

Under the circumstances I am absolutely confident that to locate, retrieve and extract the information you seek would by far exceed the time obligations upon this authority to comply, and in so doing would exceed the fees limits. This is set at £450 calculated at a flat rate of £25 per

DISABLED

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

hour for those work activities comprising of confirming the information is held, locating it, retrieving it and extracting it.

Although excess cost removes the forces' obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request. What I am able to provide you are the answers documented below –

- 1.) The table below shows the number of rapes that have been reported in the years 2019 and 2020, as requested:

Reported Year	Crimes
2019	524
2020	523

Please note, the data in the table above includes crimes relating to the HO Crime sub-group Rape, by reported date. Please also be aware, that the data is live and is correct as at 13/10/2021.

In relation to the number of reports of rape that have led to a conviction – we do not hold conviction data and therefore, I would suggest you contact the Crown Prosecution Service for this information.

Ordinarily under our section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you how to refine your request in respect of question 3 to a more manageable level. However, I cannot see how this can be achieved in this particular case because with regards to question 3, disclosing to you the length of 10 interviews of alleged rape victims and suspects, would not only be random in our search but also disclosing this information would not be truly representative of the quality and/or work that has gone into carrying out these interviews, as the length of interviews can vary drastically dependent on many variables. Therefore, I cannot see how I can assist you with refining your request in respect of question 3 any further.

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 12: Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

- (1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

In accordance with section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a 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,

Kay Moore
Force 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.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