



## 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)

XXXXXXXX

By email

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021

Our ref: FOI 2021/785

Reply contact name is: Abigail Standidge

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021, concerning looked after children and child trafficking. Please accept my apologies for the delay in providing a response to your request.

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 Intelligence department at Wiltshire Police.

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

### You wrote:

Please release the following information relating to looked after children in the care of your authority for the periods:

- 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018
- 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019
- 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

1. The total number of looked after children in the care of your authority that have:

- a. Identified as having been trafficked or a victim of modern slavery – including, but not limited to those identified through the National Referral Mechanism.
- b. Suspected of having been a **victim of trafficking or modern slavery**, if not included in a.
- c. Identified as an unaccompanied asylum seeking child (UASC) or a **separated child**
- d. Identified as being a victim of exploitation

2. The total number of looked after children in the care of your authority:



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- a. Identified or suspected as having been trafficked/victim of modern slavery and that have gone missing or absent.
  - b. Identified as an UASC or separated child and that have gone missing or absent.
  - c. Identified as being a victim of exploitation and that have gone missing or absent
3. The total number of individual incidents (which could involve the same child on more than one occasion) of looked after children in the care of your authority:
    - a. Identified or suspected as having been trafficked/victim of modern slavery and that have gone missing or absent.
    - b. Identified as an UASC or separated child and that have gone missing or absent.
    - c. Identified as being a victim of exploitation and that have gone missing or absent
  4. The total number of looked after children in the care of your authority that are still missing or absent (including those that subsequently turned 18 without being found) that were identified or suspected as having been trafficked or identified as an UASC or separated child.
  5. *For all of the above please provide a breakdown of these numbers by year and nationality of the child (e.g. British, Vietnamese, etc.) If identification is a concern due to small numbers involved, please give the total figures and specify whether the child is British / an EU national / non EU national. For Q3 & Q4, please add the length of time the child was missing during each incident.*

Please note that statutory duties include collecting and recording the following:

- Whether a **child is a victim of trafficking/modern slavery**, or whether there is reason to believe they may be a victim
- Whether a child is an **unaccompanied asylum seeking child (UASC)**
- Data on children reported **missing from care**

### Our Response:

Wiltshire Police are not able to answer your questions as we do not hold the information you require. This request would be better suited for the Children's Services team at the County and Swindon Borough Councils. Under our section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, I would therefore advise you submit a Freedom of Information request to [Wiltshire Council](#) and [Swindon Borough Council](#) as they may be able to assist you further.

### Please note:

- Wiltshire Police would only be able to provide information on children who have come to Police notice and are noted on Police systems. As there is not a flag for looked after children, we would need to approach Wiltshire and Swindon Council to obtain a list of names of looked after children. We would then need to manually review the record for each of the looked after children, if held, to determine whether they fit the criteria of this request. Only then would we be able to provide a final figure for the response.
- Children's Services should hold information regarding unaccompanied asylum seeker children; however, it is possible not all the information (if any at all) would be disclosed, but this would be dependent on the information held and the circumstances surrounding each case.

- There are aspects of the request that are considered vague. For example, 'exploitation' covers an array of areas, such as Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation; however CCE can be sub-divided to include running drugs, labour exploitation etc.

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.



**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](mailto: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 Fol 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)

**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/>