

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.ukdisclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.ukDate: 2nd November 2021

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2021 / 889

Reply contact name is:

Dear ****,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 27th October 2021.

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:

I would like to know the following information under freedom of information for a couple of research projects I am working on. These questions are for the geographical area you cover.

1. How many complaints of abuse from children being looked after by the local authority have you investigated each year since 2010 either by calendar or financial year (whichever option is easier)?
2. What are the risks of a single adult male or female sleeping at the side of the road or at a service station with a young child in a car seat also in the car? Is this illegal?
3. How often have requests been made under Clare's and Sarah's law each year since 2010 by either calendar or financial year (whichever option is easier) Can these statistics be broken down into requests by males and females or do the statistics only cover all requests?
4. What is the criteria used for a person to be identified as a risk under Clare's and Sarah's law?
5. Are all incidents of domestic violence and sexual assault logged on the system even if no arrest or prosecution takes place. Would these results show up under Clare's and Sarah's law?
6. How many false claims of sexual abuse have been reported each year since 2010 by either calendar or financial year (whichever is easier) and can these statistics be broken down by male and female reports?



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

7. How many domestic / sexual abuse claims are dropped by the complainant each year since 2010 by either calendar or financial year (whichever is easier) before an investigation has been completed?
8. Would the police like to see changes made within the domestic / sexual abuse systems to help them do their jobs better and lower the number of incidents?
9. How often do the police respond to incidents of missing children per year since 2010 by either calendar or financial year (whichever is easier) do the police keep separate statistics for children missing from local authority care or how long each missing incident covers (few hours, days, weeks, never found)?
10. What do the police think about the proposed 888 app to track females when they go out. Do you think it will work? What are the benefits and downfalls to this proposed system from a police perspective?
11. Do child social services raise concerns with the police in regards to domestic violence (adult vs adult)? If so, are these reports logged on the system to formulate any statistics? If not, would it be beneficial for these incidents to be logged?
12. Have the police made any connection between domestic abuse victims and Stockholm syndrome?

Our response:

The information that you are requesting for the majority of your request is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval. For question number 6, we currently do not record this data locally within our systems. Furthermore, we do not have the capability within our systems to flag for this information which can then be analysed quickly and easily. I have been advised that the only possible way to determine this information would be to review all crimes relating to perverting the course of justice since 2010 and manually search through all of these crime reports to determine if the case related to a false claim of sexual abuse.

For question 11, I can confirm that the answer is yes, they do raise concerns and yes, they all go onto our crime recording system if the social worker is present at the time of a DV incident. Please note they will only raise concerns if there are children involved. However, the only way we would be able to find out if it was a social worker working in their professional capacity when reporting a DV incident would be to go through every single DV report during the 10-year period, which would undoubtedly take over the 18hrs. Please note the end of question 11 is an opinion question and will not be answered under the Freedom of Information Act.

For question 5 I been advised that all DV reports (& sexual if DA related) which are risk assessed as Med or High are tasked to the DA safeguarding team, a safeguarding officer would then contact the IP and Clare's Law would be offered.

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

Under our section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we advise you how to refine your request to a more manageable level. Please note that questions 1, 3, 4, and 7 can be resubmitted as a new request and be considered under the act. However please note these questions may still fall foul to certain exemptions and I cannot be sure they can be answered in full.

Question 9 is worded in a way which makes the question fall under the lines of this being opinion based. Please note we do have stats for missing from care and we do hold for how long each incident covers.

Please be aware that questions 2, 8, 10 and 12 are opinion-based questions. Opinion based questions are not valid questions under the Freedom of Information Act and will therefore not be answered and would still remain invalid if submitted again.

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,

Disclosure Decision Maker



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