

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.ukdisclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

XXXXXX – by Email

Date: 28th March 2022

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2022 / 272

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 26th March 2022 concerning strip searches.

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 Custody Team - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

I would like to know:

The number of people subject to strip searches in the last 5 years broken down by age and gender?

Specifically, how many children, broken down by age group if possible (for example, 10-12, 13-15, 16-17) were subjected to strip searches in this time?

The numbers of people subject to strip search in the last 5 years by ethnicity?

And specifically the number of children subject to strip search in this time broken down by ethnicity? (If possible please break down these figures by age group as well (for example, 10-12, 13-15, 16-17)).

I am requesting this information from all UK police forces.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Our response:

Please note, we only collect age range data for strip searches under the categories of either adult or juvenile (under 18). In addition, we only collect end of year data in respect of ethnicity as either 'white' or 'BAME'.

Therefore, in respect of data regarding specific age-group split and specific Ethnicity, our formal response is – **No Information Held**.

What we are able to provide you is contained in the table(s) below.

Unfortunately, we do not hold any data for 2017 because this information was collected by another Officer who subsequently left the organisation. What information we do hold is only a small fraction of information for that year and we would not wish to publish this as it does not warrant inclusion – certainly from the perspective of comparative purposes as it would be meaningless.

As you have asked for 5 years worth of data, I have however provided information back as far as 2016 so that you do have 5 years worth of comparative records for complete years.

The table below shows a breakdown of the strip searches carried out for the last 5 complete calendar years, split between Adults & Juveniles and by the ethnicity we have recorded :-

Year	Adult	Juvenile (Under 18yrs)	White	BAME
2016	533	42	455	124
2017	-	-	-	-
2018	554	51	476	129
2019	519	82	455	156
2020	405	85	365	125
2021	360	30	320	70

The below table shows a gender breakdown of the strip searches carried out in the last 5 years:

Year	Male	Female
2016	469	110
2017	-	-
2018	492	113
2019	482	119
2020	376	114
2021	307	83

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,

Nick Penny
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