



Force Disclosure Unit

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.uk

disclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

XXXXXX – by email

Date: 11th April 2022

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2022 / 295

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 4th April 2022 concerning spiking incidents.

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 (and Our Response)

I am undertaking research into the prevalence of, and English police response to, spiking.

Please send me:

1) The number of cases of spiking - that is cases with the mention of spiking in the report, specific reports of a spiking etc - in the years from, and including, 2015 to the most recent case in your area.

2) The data on how many of these cases are resolved, unresolved, still open, or other outcome.

Please refer to the attached excel spreadsheet which provides you with the number of cases of spiking reported to Wiltshire Police from 2015 to date and the disposal/outcome status of each of the reports (please see note below →)

3) Information on how these cases are stored and/or processed, including a definition of 'spiking' for your force.

All crimes and incidents reported to Wiltshire Police are recorded on our Niche crime recording system.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Incidents are reports made to Wiltshire Police which do not fall into the category of being a crime.

Any crimes are allocated to a specific Crime Group and/or Home Office Classification.

For the “definition” of spiking incidents, please refer to the note below which confirms the description of the Home Office Crime Codes which are used to record specific offences of this nature.

Please Note :

The crimes and incidents provided in the table above (Q1) are as recorded specifically under the following Home Office Crime Codes :-

8/2 Administering poison with intent to injure or annoy

005/10 Administering poison so as to endanger life

088/05 Administering a substance with intent

In reality, the information provided is only the tip of the iceberg in respect of Incidents where spiking of one kind or another may have been involved. Spiking incidents are far more likely to be recorded in our system(s) under more serious crime categories such as Sexual Offences, Violence Against The Person, Thefts and so on.

Unfortunately, locating specific offences where “spiking” may have had an involvement is very difficult.

Whilst our crime recording system(s) are sophisticated, we do not have separate searchable fields in which we record that spiking of one kind or another has played a part in the offence that has occurred.

Instead, this information is only held within the narrative of the crime log of the offence which would mean that in order to identify every criminal occurrence where spiking played a part would be to physically read each and every crime log involved – this would inevitably attract a Section 12 exemption as the costs involved in undertaking this would far exceed the obligations on this Authority to comply with your request.

However, under our Section 16 obligation to be as helpful as possible to an applicant, I would advise that Wiltshire Police have received numerous FOI requests related to Spiking Incidents (by both liquid and/or injection) over the last year or so. All of our FOI responses are now published on our Force Website and are searchable and viewable by the general public.

The link to this location of our website is as follows :-

www.wiltshire.police.uk/foi-ai/af/accessing-information/published-items/

We would advise that you refer to previous FOI responses we have made in respect of Spiking Incidents as it may provide you with more information than I am able to supply you with in respect of this 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,

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