



XXXXXXXXXX
By email



Force Disclosure Unit
Wiltshire Police HQ
London Road
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN
Tel 101 ext. 62005
Website: www.wiltshire.police.uk
Email: disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

Date: 28th June 2022

Our ref: FOI 2022/474

Reply contact name is: Abigail Standidge

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 1st June 2022, concerning allegations of Police perpetrated domestic abuse.

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 Force Policy Officer, Professional Standards and Learning & Development Departments at Wiltshire Police. 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 would be most grateful if you could supply the following information in relation to police officers, PCSOs and special constables, please do not include information on civilian staff.

For questions 1-7, please provide answers by calendar year using numbers not percentages.

1. How many allegations of domestic abuse have been received against police officers, PCSOs and special constables from January 2019 to April 2022?
2. How many police officers, PCSOs and special constables were charged with domestic abuse related offences from January 2019 to April 2022?
3. How many police officers, PCSOs and special constables were convicted of domestic abuse related offences from January 2019 to April 2022?
4. How many police officers, PCSOs and special constables were subject to misconduct investigations for domestic abuse related offences from January 2019 to April 2022?
5. How many police officer, PCSOs and special constables were disciplined (e.g., management advice/action, warnings, and reprimands) for domestic abuse related offences from January 2019 to April 2022?
6. How many police officers, PCSOs and special constables were dismissed for domestic abuse related offences from January 2019 to April 2022?
7. How many police officers, PCSOs and special constables resigned, retired, or left for other reasons, following allegations of domestic abuse related offences from January 2019 to April 2022?



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) requires Wiltshire Police to confirm or deny whether the requested information is held. To establish whether the information is held - namely allegations of domestic abuse made against Police Officers, PCSOs and Special Constables - would in itself exceed the time obligations placed upon the authority to comply (18 hours). There are not any parameters for the word "domestic" and therefore a manual review of each report within the requested timeframe would be required to establish whether the report was relevant to this request, therefore engaging section 12(2).

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. Therefore the whole of the request should fall under the exemption of section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please also note that if one part of the request engages a Section 12 response, the whole request will engage a Section 12 response. The reason being is due to the fact that locating, retrieving and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations.

Ordinarily under our Section 16 obligation to provide advice and assistance we would advise you of a way to refine your request to a more manageable level. Due to the difficulties in obtaining the requested information, as outlined above, I cannot think of a way in which this could be achieved.

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 can provide you with is documented below:

8. Does your force have policies and procedures specific to responding to allegations of police perpetrated domestic abuse?
 - a. Yes
 - ~~b. No~~
9. If you answered yes to question 8, has your force updated those policies and procedures since September 2020?
 - a. Yes – The policy was updated in August 2021.
 - ~~b. No~~
10. If you answered yes to question 9, please provide details of updates (e.g., appointment of investigating officer not known to suspect).

Taken from Domestic Abuse Policy & Procedure

- ❖ All incidents of Police perpetrated domestic abuse are to be investigated by a PIP2 detective/investigator from CID, who is based at a different location to where the suspect works, and, where possible, lives.
- ❖ Where a Wiltshire Police Officer or member of staff is arrested the Officer should be taken to a custody unit outside of Wiltshire (if practical and safe to do so).
- ❖ The Head of PSD must be made aware of any arrest when practicable to do so.
- ❖ In all such investigations, the OIC should sign an undertaking to declare that they have no conflict of personal or professional interest in relation to the suspect or the victim.

- ❖ The safeguarding of the victim(s) and any key witnesses will be the responsibility of the Safeguarding Team within PPD.

11. Does your force deliver training specific to responding to allegations of police perpetrated domestic abuse?

a. ~~Yes~~

b. No – It has always been in our training to mention about how domestic abuse doesn't discriminate, happens across all walks of life and that perpetrators come from all walks of life. Reference is made that perpetrators of domestic abuse can be in any career - the trainers do make sure it is noted that within the Police there will be domestic abuse perpetrators and victims. A specific example is given relating to of a Police Officer being held to account for domestic abuse, who was subsequently dismissed.

12. If you answered yes to question 11, has training been introduced since September 2020? N/A

a. ~~Yes~~

b. ~~No~~

13. Is training

a. Mandatory (where delivered in PPD training)

b. ~~Voluntary~~

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires 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.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss the withheld information.

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.

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

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 to contact them, please visit <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>