

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.ukdisclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.ukDate: 21st July 2022

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2022 / 565

I write in connection with your request for information dated 11th July 2022 concerning abortion related 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 having consulted our Business Intelligence Unit I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

I previously submitted an FOI concerning abortion-related crimes [FOI 2022/538].

I am now requesting data concerning all incidents reported to the force concerning suspected cases of such crimes (which may not later have been recorded as crimes/offences), as well as arrests and confiscation of digital devices.

I would like this information provided for the period March 2014 to March 2022, for the following three offences: a) Administering drugs or using instruments to procure an abortion (under Offence Against the Person Act), b) Procuring drugs/instruments to cause an abortion (under Offences Against the Person Act, or c) intentional destruction of a viable unborn child (under Infant Life Preservation Act).

Please tell me:

1. How many incidents the force recorded, broken down by sex of the suspect, the nature of the suspected offence, and whether the suspect was the pregnant party themselves and therefore suspected of procuring their own abortion/destroying their own child (a count of true or false will suffice for this last part, where true means they were the pregnant party)

2. How many arrests were made by the force, broken down by sex of the suspect, the nature of the suspected offence, and whether the suspect was the pregnant party themselves (a count of true or false will suffice for this last part). Where a re-arrest has occurred for the same individual



please specify as such in the data so that both a count of arrests and of unique persons arrested is provided.

3. How many times did the force confiscate digital devices from suspects? Please provide a breakdown of the sex of the suspect, the nature of the suspected offence, and whether the suspect was the pregnant party (a count of true or false will suffice for this last part)

By nature of offence, I mean which of the aforementioned three suspected offences the incident concerned.

Our response:

Question 1: One incident listed as “Child destruction”. However, please note this was an accident and does not fit the category of “intentional destruction”. This was not ultimately crimed as the male suspect was below the age of responsibility and as a result closed as No Crime. Had it become a crime it would have been reclassified by our crime standards team on review to something else (e.g., violence against the person).

Question 2: Zero

Question 3: Zero

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