



Via email



Force Disclosure Unit

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

www.wiltshire.police.uk

disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

Date: 28/11/2022

Our ref: FOI 2022/886

Reply contact name is:

Dear

I write in connection with your request for information dated 10/11/2022 concerning vulnerability assessment.

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 finance and media teams at Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and I am able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

1. Do you have any units or teams that are dedicated to safeguarding that works in the context of County Lines ?
 - 1.1 What are the units called (e.g. Child Centred Policing Team; Vulnerability Assessment Team; Child Exploitation Team)?
 - 1.2 Does each Basic Command Unit have all of these teams or only some [please list The BCUs that do/do not if not present in all - if 'all force' please state]?
 - 1.3 How many FTE work in each of the units dedicated to dealing with vulnerability in each BCU?
 - 1.4 How many trained Child Abuse Investigators does each BCU have?
2. Do you use any tools such as Vulnerability Assessment/Identification Forms in the context of county lines (i.e. forms that are used by front-line officers or front desk officers to determine, either pre or post arrest, whether safeguarding is more appropriate than arrest/prosecution) If yes, is this the form produced by the National County Lines Coordination Centre (NCLCC) or was it produced locally?
 - 2.1 Is there a different assessment tool or process for young people and for adults?
 - 2.2 Is the tool used before or after arrest?
 - 2.3 If the tool is not the NCLCC form, can we please get a copy of the specific tool that you use (for comparison with other forces)?



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

3. Does your force work with a MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) or equivalent?
3.1 If yes, is this force wide or is there a MASH or more than one MASH in each BCU?

Response

Question 1:

No, there is no specific team for safeguarding for county lines, however all police officers are trained to deliver effective law enforcement which includes highlighting the signs of county lines activity and safeguarding any vulnerable individuals / victims caught up in criminality

Questions 1.1 – 1.4:

N/A

Question 2:

Yes - Wiltshire use a vulnerability risk assessment (VRA) form, this is produced locally, it is not county lines specific and can be used for adults, for any offence at any point of an investigation/Police contact. A Public Protection Notice (PPN) is used for any children who come to notice of the Police, this can be whether they are victims, witnesses, or subjects

Question 2.1:

Yes

Question 2.2:

Yes

Question 2.3:

Please see attached Victim Risk Assessment form.

Question 3:

Yes

Question 3.1:

We have a force wide MASH split into Swindon and County with staff from Wiltshire Police within each.

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

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