



Force Disclosure Unit
Police Headquarters
London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: 25th November 2022

Ref: FOI 2022/799

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 8th October 2022 concerning detective departments.

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 after having consulted our Criminal Investigation department – I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

1. The structure of your detective departments, and the specific detective specialisms within your force (i.e. identifying the specific departments, such as CID, Rape and Serious Sexual Offences teams, Child-Protection units, Surveillance, Organised Crime and so forth).
2. The remit of each of these units.
3. The logistical structure of your detective departments, including whether they are, for example, regionally based, local to each police station, or centralized.
4. How detectives are recruited within each (i.e. internally by recruiting uniformed constables, graduate recruitment, or externally via organisations such as Police Now).

Clarification was sought from the applicant on the 28th October 2022 with regards to whether a breakdown of the structure of individual departments (by rank) would be required, and the applicant confirmed that they would like a breakdown by rank on the same day.

Our response:

Please note, that providing the breakdown of the structure of individual departments by rank is exempt under:

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Section 31(1) – Law Enforcement

Section 31 is a prejudice-based, qualified exemption and therefore, the harm in disclosure should be evidenced and the public interest given. Please see the harm and public interest test set out below.

Overall Harm

To release the breakdown of the requested departments by rank, this could go some way to demonstrate operational capability and lead to locations being targeted. This is because those who are intent on committing criminal activity would be able to identify which force areas may be less resourced and use this knowledge to their own advantage in furthering their criminal activity.

Whilst there is public interest in the transparency of policing, this is countered by the need to protect any future law enforcement conducted by Wiltshire Police.

Public Interest Considerations

Factors favouring disclosure:

The disclosure of this information would lead to a better-informed public and promote trust by demonstrating openness, transparency and accountability. In addition, the public are entitled to know how public funds are being spent.

Factors favouring non-disclosure:

The police service has a clear responsibility to prevent and detect crime and disclosing this information would provide to the world – not just the requester, information surrounding the numbers within certain departments and their ranks, and as a result of this, this would therefore give away the force's capability. This would place our future law enforcement and investigative ability into jeopardy which would undoubtedly result in the public losing confidence in the ability of Wiltshire Police to be able to deliver effective operational law enforcement.

Balance Test

The above points highlight both the merits and issues with disclosing in full the requested information in relation to your Freedom of Information request. Overall, the Police service is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. Because of this, Wiltshire Police will not divulge any information if to do so would prejudice our law enforcement capabilities and in turn lead to more victims of crime and offenders not being brought to justice. The public interest is very largely in favour of non-disclosure in full to ensure the capability of law enforcement of Wiltshire Police.

This would only be overridden in exceptional circumstances, which this Freedom of Information request is not.

However, we have supplied you with the following remaining information in which an exemption has not been applied:

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Please see a breakdown of the detective departments in the table below, alongside their remit and where they are based:

Department Names		Remit	Logistical Structure
Geographic CID			
CID	Criminal Investigation Department	All serious and complex crime including sexual offences	Based geographically
VCT	Volume Crime Team	Volume crime investigation	Based geographically
Public Protection Department			
CAIT	Child Abuse Investigation Team	Investigation of child abuse	Based geographically
CIET	Child Internet Exploitation Team	Investigation of child exploitation via Internet	Centralized
MOSOVO	Management of Sexual or Violent Offenders Unit	Management of registered sex offenders	Centralized
MASH	Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub	Multi agency safeguarding hub, joint team with social services	Centralized
SAIT	Safeguarding Adults Investigation Team	Safeguarding adults	Centralized
MSHT	Modern Slavery Human Trafficking Team	Deals with offences of modern slavery	Centralized
HO Crime			
SOCU	Serious and Organised Crime Unit	Surveillance capability and dealing with organised crime	Centralized
Fortitude		Force proactive team targeting drug related crime, burglary and other crime requiring proactive response	Based geographically
Fraud		Deal with serious/complex fraud	Centralized
FAIT	Financial Asset Investigation Team	Financial crime team	Centralized

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DIU	Digital Investigations and Intelligence Unit	Digital and internet intelligence unit	Centralized
MCIT	Major Crime Investigation Team	Tri-force homicide team	Centralized
DSU	Dedicated Source Unit	Handles source intelligence	Centralized
Intel	Intelligence	Force intelligence	Based geographically

We currently recruit Detectives internally, but there is ongoing work to look at feasibility of being able to run a direct entry scheme for Detectives. We also use civilian Investigators that are trained to same level as Detectives.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the 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 31(1) – Law Enforcement

In accordance with Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this particular 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,

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

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.

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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