

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.ukdisclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

XXXXXX – by E Mail

Date: 14th November 2022

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2022 / 881

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 9th November 2022 concerning Vulnerable Veterans.

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 liaised with our Force Operations and Policy Teams - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

Do you have any procedures in place in your authority that identifies vulnerable veterans who come into contact with the police and if so, what are they ?

Our response:

Wiltshire Police do not have any specific Force Policy on dealing with or identifying any vulnerable veterans that come into contact with the Police.

Any calls that are received by Wiltshire Police are subject to a thorough risk assessment process called THRIVE which identifies threat, harm, risk, opportunities for investigation and engagement, so any vulnerable veterans calling Wiltshire Police would be identified at that initial stage.

Our Adult Safeguarding Team look at whether individuals need care and support as a matter of course, but any veterans or ex-veterans would not necessarily be afforded any special treatment per se.

They would be dealt with the same way as any other vulnerable person that comes to our attention, but the Adult Safeguarding Team would also signpost to any local veteran charities, such as Alabare's Home For Veterans.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

That said, on our internal website we have a number of resources in place to assist both officers and staff in regards to signposting vulnerable veterans and ex-veterans to the likes of Combat Stress, Ssafo, Help for Heroes and Veterans Outreach Support. There are also several support leaflets available as another resource.

With the proximity of Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire has a large military presence in our geographical jurisdiction area for law enforcement. There are local veterans support groups where our neighbourhood PC's attend meetings with different partners to discuss any veterans / ex-veterans that need support, these also have a good link in to "our wilton" the local Veterans support facility.

In addition, Custody have an advice leaflet produced by the Avon and Wiltshire NHS Trust which they give to veterans who arrive in custody but other than that, the way they would be dealt with would be the same as any other person brought into custody – this has been provided to you on your previous request from 2020.

Our Learning and Development Team do not have any specific training that is focused purely on identifying vulnerable veterans or ex-veterans. However they do run a 2 day mental health and Learning Disabilities course for staff that covers how operational staff can recognise and respond to anyone that may experience mental health issues or have a neurodiverse condition/s in the community. They also run a one day vulnerability training course for operational staff/officers.

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 Fol 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