



Police Headquarters
London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN
disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

Date 12th December 2022

Our ref FOI 2022/905

Dear ***,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 14th November concerning strip search data and gender identity.

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 Custody and our Head of People Strategy and Policy at Wiltshire Police.

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

You wrote / Our response:

Definitions: male/men or female/woman, here meaning birth sex, or biological sex.

'Strip', and 'search' as defined by Police & Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE), PACE Code A and Annex A of PACE Code C.

"Strip" and 'search' meaning officer recorded Search Record for the purposes of 'strip' and 'search'.

All the below data for Questions 1 – 7 refers to arrested persons in custody only, between the dates of 01/01/2022 – 31/10/2022. We do not hold data for non-custody searches or searches in custody of persons not under arrest.

1. Confirm total number of strip searches, carried out by this Constabulary for the period Jan 2022- November 2022 – **Total 273**

2. Confirm total number of more thorough searches (more than a search of outer clothing) carried out for the period Jan 2022 – November 2022 – **No Information Held.**

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3. Confirm total number of strip searches carried out on female members of the public for the period Jan 2022 – November 2022 – **Total 38.**
4. Confirm total number of more thorough searches (more than a search of outer clothing) carried out on female members of the public for the period Jan 2022 – November 2022. **No Information Held.**
5. Confirm how many were on females a. under arrest b. not arrested, when the search was carried out for 3. And 4. **The 38 refers to arrested females only, all took place in a custody suite.**
6. Confirm how many of these were carried out by an officer of the female sex. **All 38.**
7. Confirm how many by an officer of the male sex for both 3. And 4. **None.**
8. Confirm how many officers within your Constabulary identify under the Equality Act 2010 as a transsexual undergoing transition, transgender, or moving from birth sex to a preferred gender? **No Information Held – we currently do not record this information.**
9. How many officers who identify as transsexual officers participated in searches of members of the public for the period Jan 2022 – November 2022 **No Information Held – we currently do not record this information.**
10. How many police officers identify as a Transwomen - a man moving from birth sex to female. **The information that you are requesting is exempt by virtue of the following exemption under the Freedom of Information Act:**

Section 40 (2) Personal Information.

Section 40 is a class based absolute exemption, for that reason there is no requirement to articulate the harm in disclosure or a requirement for the public interest test.

11. How many police officers identify as a Transman - a woman moving from birth sex to male. **The information that you are requesting is exempt by virtue of the following exemption under the Freedom of Information Act:**

Section 40 (2) Personal Information.

Section 40 is a class based absolute exemption, for that reason there is no requirement to articulate the harm in disclosure or a requirement for the public interest test.

12. How many police officers identify as Non-binary: a woman moving from birth sex to Non-binary. **No Information Held – we currently do not record this information.**

13. How many police officers identify as Non-binary: a man moving from birth sex to Non-binary. **No Information Held – we currently do not record this information.**

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Wiltshire Police, when refusing to provide 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. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice for those aspects of your request.

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Exemptions applied:

Section 40(2) – Personal Information

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

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,

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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/>

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