



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

Date 8th December 2022

Our ref **FOI 2022/935**

Dear ***,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 24th November concerning police officers under influence of drugs or alcohol.

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 Professional Standards Department at Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

You wrote:

I am looking to find out the number of police officers (of any rank) who were caught either under the influence of drugs or in possession of drugs.

Please also specify their ranks, where they were based and what drug(s).

I would like to see figures from the full calendar years of 2020, 2021 and as much of 2022 as possible.

Response:

The information that you are requesting is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval. We currently do not have the capability within our systems to flag information on the number of police officers who were caught either under the influence of drugs or in possession of drugs which can then be analysed quickly and easily.

The ascertaining of this information would only be possible by physically reading every possible breach during the 2-year period you are requesting, in order to determine if it

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related to police officers who were caught either under the influence of drugs or in possession of drugs.

Under the circumstances I am absolutely confident that to locate, retrieve and extract the information you seek would by far exceed the time obligations upon this authority to comply, and in so doing would exceed the fees limits. This is set at £450 calculated at a flat rate of £25 per hour for those work activities comprising of confirming the information is held, locating it, retrieving it and extracting it.

Under our section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you how to refine your request to a more manageable level. Due to the difficulties outlined above, I cannot see how this can be achieved in this particular case. **However, our professional Standards Department have provided a list of searchable titles (known as breach codes) within the system which can be requested and none of them relate to drugs or alcohol.**

MP Breach Type
A Serious non-sexual assault
B Sexual assault
C Other assault
D Oppressive conduct or harassment
E Unlawful/unnecessary arrest or detention
F Discriminatory Behaviour
G Irregularity in evidence/perjury
H Corrupt practice
J Mishandling of property
K Breach Code A PACE
L Breach Code B PACE
M Breach Code C PACE

MP Breach Type
M Breach Code C PACE
N Breach Code D PACE
P Breach Code E PACE
R Multiple or unspecified breaches of PACE
S Other neglect or failure in duty
T Other irregularity in procedure
U Incivility, impoliteness and intolerance
V Traffic irregularity
W Other
Q Lack of fairness and impartiality
X Improper disclosure of information
Y Other sexual conduct

Type	Type Description
A	Serious non-sexual assault
A1	Police action following contact
A2	Decisions
A3	Information
A4	General level of service
B	Sexual assault
B1	Stops, and stop and search
B2	Searches of premises and seizure of property
B3	Power to arrest and detain
B4	Use of force
B5	Detention in police custody
B6	Bail, identification and interview procedures

Type	Type Description
B7	Evidential procedures
B8	Out of court disposals
B9	Other policies and procedures
C	Other assault
C1	Handling of or damage to property/premises
D	Oppressive conduct or harassment
D1	Use of police systems
D2	Disclosure of information
D3	Handling of information
D4	Accessing and handling of information from other sources
E	Unlawful/unnecessary arrest or detention
E1	Use of police vehicles

Type	Type Description
F	Discriminatory Behaviour
F1	Age
F10	Other
F2	Disability
F3	Gender reassignment
F4	Pregnancy and maternity
F5	Marriage and civil partnership
F6	Race
F7	Religion or belief
F8	Sex
F9	Sexual Orientation
G	Irregularity in evidence/perjury

Type	Type Description
G1	Organisational corruption
G2	Abuse of position for sexual purpose
G3	Abuse of position for the purpose of pursuing an inappropriate
G4	Abuse of position for financial purpose
G5	Obstruction of justice
G6	Abuse of position for other purpose
H	Corrupt practice
H1	Impolite language/tone
H2	Impolite and intolerant actions
H3	Unprofessional attitude and disrespect
H4	Lack of fairness and impartiality
H5	Overbearing or harassing behaviours

Type	Type Description
J	Mishandling of property
J1	Sexual assault
J2	Sexual harassment
J3	Other sexual conduct
K	Breach Code A PACE
K1	Discreditable conduct
L	Breach Code B PACE
L1	Other
M	Breach Code C PACE
N	Breach Code D PACE
P	Breach Code E PACE
Q	Lack of fairness and impartiality

Type	Type Description
M	Breach Code C PACE
N	Breach Code D PACE
P	Breach Code E PACE
Q	Lack of fairness and impartiality
R	Multiple or unspecified breaches of PACE
S	Other neglect or failure in duty
T	Other irregularity in procedure
U	Incivility, impoliteness and intolerance
V	Traffic irregularity
W	Other
X	Improper disclosure of information
Y	Other sexual conduct

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 12: Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

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

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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 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

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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/>