

**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: 17th February 2023

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2023 / 176

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 2nd February 2023 concerning Child Abductions.

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 consulted our Business Performance Team - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote (and Our Response) :

Please could you provide me with the following data:

1. The number of recorded child abduction incidents between 2000-2022
2. The number of recorded incidents of child abduction by a stranger/ unknown to the victim during 2000-2022

The information provided to you in the table below comprises incidents (ie crimes and non-crime incidents) that have been reported to Wiltshire Police under the following 2 Home Office crime recording codes that relate to Child Abduction :-

013/01 Child Abduction – By parent / by other person
013/02 Abduction of child by other persons

Wiltshire Police do not hold any information prior to 2007 – for the period 2000-2006 inclusive, our answer is therefore – No Information Held



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Reported Year	Known to victim	Not known to victim
2007	1	0
2008	5	4
2009	4	2
2010	5	1
2011	9	2
2012	4	0
2013	2	0
2014	7	0
2015	14	4
2016	5	1
2017	2	2
2018	8	2
2019	7	3
2020	1	2
2021	6	0
2022	2	1
Total	82	24

3. The number of recorded incidents of child abduction from the child's home 2000-2022

No Information Held.

There is no obligation on an Authority to provide an explanation when responding with an answer of No Information Held.

However I am happy in this instance to provide you with some context in respect of this answer.

Whilst our crime recording systems are sophisticated we do not have a field in which we specifically record whether an incident or crime has occurred within the family home or indeed outside of it.

Whilst we do record the occurrence location of an incident and also the address of individuals involved, the latter are not necessarily 100% accurate on our systems and may be out of date if families have moved (and we are unaware of new addresses or if individuals are staying temporarily elsewhere etc). As a consequence, any comparisons between the incident address and the address listed for an individual cannot be relied upon.

Wiltshire Police would never place information into the public domain (as this FOI response would be) if they were not 100% sure of the accuracy of the information being provided.

The only way to ascertain the information you require would be to review each and every one of these 106 incidents and contact the victims involved to determine where they were physically living at the time the incident occurred and then creating new information. Undertaking this task would almost inevitably invoke an exemption under Section 12 of the FOIA as the time and cost involved in undertaking this would far outway the obligations on this Authority to comply.

It also needs to be noted that there is no obligation on an Authority to create information - where none exists today - simply to answer an FOI request.

Please Note

Please note, the data provided in this response is an un-audited snapshot of unpublished data sourced from "live" systems and is subject to the interpretation of the original request by the individual extracting the data. Data is live and correct as at 16/02/2023.

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 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