

WILTSHIRE POLICE



Via email



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

Date 02/03/2023

Our ref FOI 2023/230

Reply contact name is:

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information, dated 17/02/2023, concerning coercive control amongst young people.

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, searches were conducted with the business intelligence and public protection teams of Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and it is not possible to meet your requirements in full.

You wrote:

Under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000, I want to request the following information:

1. The number of coercive control offences recorded by your police force where the alleged victim was in the following age ranges:

a) 11-15

b) 16-24

Please provide breakdown by year – 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, with year starting in April, ending in March the following year. For 2023, please provide figures to date.

2. The number of coercive control offences recorded by your police force where the alleged suspect was in the following age ranges:

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a) 11-15

b) 16-24

Please provide breakdown by year – 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, with year starting in April, ending in March the following year. For 2023, please provide figures to date.

3. Of these offences from q2, please provide a breakdown of outcomes (charged, cautioned, no further action etc) for the following years - 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, with year starting in April, ending in March the following year. For 2023, please provide figures to date.

4. The Home Office "[Domestic Abuse -Statutory Guidance](#)" July 2022 (p23), states:

"In responding to cases of abuse involving those under 18, child safeguarding procedures should be followed."

Of cases of coercive control where both the victim and perpetrator are under 18:

a) how many referrals were made by the police to children's social services or a multi-agency forum? Please provide a breakdown for the following years - 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, with year starting in April, ending in March the following year. For 2023, please provide figures to date.

Response:

Q1: Data to the end of Jan 2023

Reported.FiscalYear	11-15	16-24
2016-2017	0	8
2017-2018	0	10
2018-2019	2	26
2019-2020	2	76
2020-2021	1	61
2021-2022	2	68
2022-2023	1	60

Q2: Data to the end of Jan 2023

Reported.FiscalYear	11-15	16-24
2016-2017	0	13
2017-2018	0	15
2018-2019	3	37
2019-2020	3	125
2020-2021	2	93
2021-2022	2	100
2022-2023	2	107

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Q3: Data to the end of Jan 2023

Reported.FiscalYear	Charged Summoned	5: Offender has died	9: CPS - prosecution not in public interest	13: Named suspect but victim/key witness deceased or too ill	14: Victim declines/unable to support action to identify offender	15: CPS - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	15: Named suspect ID-victim supports but ED	16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy	New
2016-2017	3							5	1		
2017-2018	5						1	4	2		
2018-2019	4						13		14	1	
2019-2020	9	1				9	34		31	1	
2020-2021	5		1		1	5	24		32		
2021-2022	8			1		6	31		27		3
2022-2023	0					6	11		32		25

Q4:

The type of information you require is not stored in a way which allows for easy retrieval. All referrals made in relation to domestic abuse where children are involved / present are sent to children's services, though to extract the information that you have requested we would need to manually peruse all relevant reports within the timeframe given. 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. Therefore the whole of the request falls under the exemption of section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Ordinarily under our Section 16 obligation to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you of a way to refine your request to a more manageable level. However, due to the difficulties in obtaining the requested information, as outlined above, I cannot think of a way in which this could be achieved.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Constabulary, 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.

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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.

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 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.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

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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/>