

WILTSHIRE POLICE



Via Email



Police Headquarters

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

Date 23/03/2023

Our ref FOI 2023/237

Reply contact name is:

Dear ,

I write in connection with your request for information, dated 20/02/2023, concerning suicides between 2019 - 2022.

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 team of Wiltshire Police.

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

You wrote:

a) All suicides (search suspicious death if can't do suicides) over 4 year period, 2019,2020,2021,2022.

please include:

- location of suicide if public place (bridge, carpark location etc, if home address, just return "home")
- first 5 digits of home address postcode (i.e. BA14 7)
- occ summary
- PPN suicide flag yes/no
- month/year
- hour of day
- age / gender / ethnicity

b) discrete volume of individuals with PPN suicide flag per postcode (first 5 digits) within previous 4 years 2019/2020/2021/2022. (don't need to break down per year, just total number within the 4 year period per postcode area)

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Response:

Time of Incident	Month of Death (Please Select)	Year of Death	Gender (Please Select)	Location of Event
Unknown	October	2020	Male	Home
Unknown	October	2020	Male	Home
Unknown	October	2020	Male	Woodland
Unknown	October	2020	Female	Home
Unknown	October	2020	Male	Home
Unknown	October	2020	Female	Home
Unknown	October	2020	Male	Home
Unknown	November	2020	Female	Home
Unknown	November	2020	Male	Home
Unknown	November	2020	Male	Home
Unknown	November	2020	Female	Home
Unknown	November	2020	Female	Home
Unknown	November	2020	Male	Home
Unknown	November	2020	Male	Home
Unknown	November	2020	Male	Home
Unknown	December	2020	Female	Home
Unknown	December	2020	Male	Home
Unknown	December	2020	Male	Home
Unknown	December	2020	Male	Home
Unknown	December	2020	Female	Railway
Unknown	December	2020	Male	Woodland
Unknown	January	2021	Female	Home
Unknown	February	2021	Male	Home
Unknown	February	2021	Male	Home
Unknown	February	2021	Female	Home
Unknown	February	2021	Male	Home
Unknown	March	2021	Male	Home
Unknown	March	2021	Male	Home
Unknown	March	2021	Male	Railway
Unknown	March	2021	Male	Home
Unknown	March	2021	Male	Home
Unknown	March	2021	Female	Woodland
Unknown	March	2021	Male	Home
Unknown	May	2021	Female	Car Park
Unknown	May	2021	Male	Cliffs
Unknown	May	2021	Female	Home
Unknown	May	2021	Female	Home
Afternoon	June	2021	Male	Shed
Evening	June	2021	Male	Home
Afternoon	June	2021	Male	Farm
Morning	June	2021	Male	Home
Evening	June	2021	Male	Garage
Afternoon	June	2021	Male	Shed
Evening	July	2021	Male	Home

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Evening	July	2021	Male	Home
Afternoon	July	2021	Female	Home
Afternoon	July	2021	Female	Home
Evening	July	2021	Female	Home
Afternoon	July	2021	Male	Home
Afternoon	July	2021	Female	Home
Evening	July	2021	Female	Home
Evening	August	2021	Female	Home
Afternoon	August	2021	Male	Farm
Overnight	August	2021	Male	Gardens
Morning	September	2021	Male	Gardens
Morning	September	2021	Male	Woodland
Morning	September	2021	Male	Lake
Afternoon	October	2021	Female	Field
Evening	October	2021	Male	Home
Evening	October	2021	Male	Shed
Morning	October	2021	Male	Home
Morning	October	2021	Female	Home
Unknown	October	2021	Male	Woodland
Afternoon	November	2021	Male	Home
Morning	November	2021	Male	Garage
Unknown	November	2021	Male	Home
Afternoon	November	2021	Male	Home
Overnight	November	2021	Male	Home
Afternoon	November	2021	Male	Home
Overnight	November	2021	Male	Gardens
Overnight	December	2021	Female	Motorway
Overnight	December	2021	Male	Home
Unknown	December	2021	Female	Home
Unknown	December	2021	Male	Home
Unknown	December	2021	Male	Home
Overnight	December	2021	Male	Home
Unknown	December	2021	Female	Home
Overnight	December	2021	Female	Home
Unknown	December	2021	Male	Home
Morning	January	2022	Female	Woodland
Unknown	January	2022	Male	Home
Overnight	January	2022	Male	Home
Daytime	February	2022	Male	Vehicle
Afternoon	February	2022	Male	Home
Overnight	March	2022	Male	Hotel
Overnight	March	2022	Male	Road
Afternoon	March	2022	Female	Home
Daytime	March	2022	Male	Woodland
Unknown	March	2022	Male	Garage
Unknown	March	2022	Female	Home
Unknown	March	2022	Male	Home
Unknown	March	2022	Male	Home
Unknown	April	2022	Female	Home
Morning	April	2022	Female	Home

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Evening	May	2022	Male	Woodland
Unknown	May	2022	Female	Home
Unknown	May	2022	Male	Shed
Morning	May	2022	Male	Railway
Overnight	May	2022	Male	Hospital
Overnight	June	2022	Male	Car park
Afternoon	July	2022	Male	Car park
Overnight	July	2022	Male	Home
Overnight	July	2022	Male	Woodland
Overnight	July	2022	Male	Street
Unknown	August	2022	Male	Home
Overnight	August	2022	Male	Home
Daytime	August	2022	Male	Home
Daytime	August	2022	Male	Home
Evening	August	2022	Female	Home
Evening	August	2022	Male	Home
Unknown	August	2022	Male	Home
Unknown	August	2022	Male	Woodland
Unknown	September	2022	Male	Home
Afternoon	September	2022	Male	Garage
Overnight	October	2022	Female	Motorway
Morning	January	2022	Male	Gardens
Afternoon	October	2022	Female	Home
Morning	October	2022	Male	Field
Overnight	November	2022	Male	Road
Afternoon	November	2022	Female	Hospital
Unknown	November	2022	Female	Home
Morning	December	2022	Male	Home
Overnight	December	2022	Female	Home
Evening	December	2022	Male	Home
Evening	December	2022	Female	Home
Unknown	December	2022	Male	Home
Evening	December	2022	Male	Home
Afternoon	January	2023	Male	Home
Evening	January	2023	Female	Home
Evening	January	2023	Female	Home
Afternoon	January	2023	Male	Barracks
Overnight	January	2023	Male	Canal
Unknown	February	2023	Male	Home
Overnight	February	2023	Male	Garden
Unknown	February	2023	Female	Home
Overnight	February	2023	Male	Home
Morning	February	2023	Male	Railway
Morning	February	2023	Female	Canal

Please note that suspicious deaths have been searched on. For more accurate figures on suicides, you may wish to contact the coroner's office.

Some of the information requested has triggered an exemption, please see below:

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Section 38(1) (a):

Harm test

A disclosure under Freedom of Information is a disclosure to the world, not just the individual who has requested the information. Although every effort should be made to release information under the Freedom of Information Act, disclosing the requested information would cause great emotional and mental distress onto the family and friends of the deceased, and potentially members of the public who may be dealing with suicidal ideations.

Factors favouring disclosure

Placing this information into the public domain would lead to an increased public awareness regarding suicide rates, which could lead to further conversations being had in the public domain; This could be to the benefit of anyone feeling suicidal. Additionally, disclosure would demonstrate Wiltshire Police as being as open and transparent with the public as possible.

Factors against disclosure

If this information were to be disclosed, this would cause substantial distress to the deceased's family, friends and potentially members of the public who may view the disclosure. This is particularly the case due to the sensitive nature of the information requested and the likelihood that a deceased individual, and therefore their families, could be identified through the release of certain information. Such information may not have been previously known to family and friends of the individual and releasing this could undermine public confidence in the police. Wiltshire Police will not disclose information if it would cause harm - regardless of whether this is physical, emotional, or mental - to victims of crime, their family and friends or members of the public.

Furthermore, there is a large public interest in ensuring that the general public are safeguarded and not caused any further harm by a disclosure into the public domain by the Force.

Balancing Test

Wiltshire Police are charged with enforcing the law, preventing, and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency and openness between the Force and the public, there is a stronger public interest in ensuring that victims - along with their family, friends, and members of the public - are safeguarded against further harm, anxiety and distress caused through the disclosure of information. Because of this, Wiltshire Police will not divulge any information if doing so would cause further distress to victims and/or members of the public.

For this reason, public interest lies in favour of non-disclosure of this information.

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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.

Exemption applied:

Section 38 (1) – Health and safety

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 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:

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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/>