

**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: 13th March 2023

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2023 / 277

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 2nd March 2023 concerning referrals to Victim Support Services.

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 and Horizon (Victims Support) Teams - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

Please can you provide the number of victims of domestic abuse aged under 18 that have been referred into victims support services for the following time periods:

- 1) 30 January 2021 – 29 January 2022
- 2) 30 January 2022 – 29 January 2023

Our response:

The number of victims of Domestic Abuse aged under 18 recorded on our systems over the last two years have been as follows :-

30 January 2021 – 29 January 2022	221 victims of DA under 18
30 January 2022 – 29 January 2023	271 victims of DA under 18

All victims of crime – after assessment to clarify that they meet the threshold for this support – are offered the services of our Horizon (Victim Support) Team, but not all of those who are offered it have either wanted or actually accepted the offer of such a referral.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

The Horizon Victim and Witness Care Program at Wiltshire Police was established to ensure that every victim of crime benefits from the best possible integrated support service according to their needs. Horizon Victim and Witness Care was established to ensure that every victim of crime benefits from the best possible integrated support service according to their needs.

What they do and offer :-

- A dedicated Victim and Witness Care Officer to victims of crime identified as most vulnerable
- Support and guidance throughout the criminal investigation process
- Simplified process for victims
- Greater level of co-ordinated end-to-end care for victims who need it most
- A schedule of contact between the victim and Wiltshire Police - victims will be able to say when and how they wish to be contacted
- Signposting to relevant national and local services where appropriate
- Improved quality of outcomes for victims and witnesses, working closely with key partner agencies

The number of those Domestic Abuse victims under the age of 18 that have been formally referred into our Horizon (Victim Support) program are as follows :-

30 January 2021 – 29 January 2022	43 referrals to Horizon
30 January 2022 – 29 January 2023	65 referrals to Horizon

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