

WILTSHIRE POLICE



Via Email



Police Headquarters

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

Date 13/05/2023

Our ref **FOI 2023/ 276**

Reply contact name is:

Dear

I write in connection with your request for information 03/03/2023 concerning changes made because of Part 3 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (Children as victims)

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 * at Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and I am able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

I would like to make the following request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

What changes have been made to the force's approach to recording offences as a result of Part 3 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (children as victims) coming into force on 30 January 2022?

Response

On receiving this request for information, the domestic abuse team, learning and development, the Horizon victim and witness care unit and the compliance and assurance teams conducted research.

The changes introduced ensured that children within domestic abuse situations whether present or not would be considered 'victim's' not for crime recording purposes but in respect of receiving the rights of a victim.

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Niche does not currently provide for children who are present to be detailed as “victim” specifically on the crime, but they are identified as present, or not. The Public Protection Notice (PPN) does detail each child and is shared as a matter of course with our partners in MASH and through Encompass which then allows for support to be put in place with them through school and Children’s Services.

We will be getting a new Niche Person Classification which will easily identify child DA victims, which will help us to identify those persons. Dates to be confirmed.

Where contact is made by Horizon in DA cases graded standard (subject to eligibility) if a child has been identified on the niche as present, then the allocated liaison officer will discuss child support options also with the named aggrieved and refer onwards where required.

We have been rolling out DA Matters training provided by Safe Lives to over 1000 staff and officers and raising awareness that children at DA incidents should be spoken to and are highlighting the use of AWARE which is focused on the voice of the child across the force.

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.

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

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

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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/>