

WILTSHIRE POLICE



Via email



Police Headquarters

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

Date 09/06/2023

Our ref **FOI 2023/509**

Reply contact name is:

Dear

I write in connection with your request for information dated /04/05/2023 concerning police officer training in relation to the Attorney General's Guidelines on disclosure, NPCC and the CPS Joint Principles for Redactions.

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 (with Response)

Under the DPA 2018, we are requesting information regarding the training of police officers in relation to the Attorney General's Guidelines on Disclosure and the NPCC and the CPS Joint Principles for Redaction.

1. During the period 01/01/2021 – 01/04/2022, what format of training did officers receive regarding the above, and what number received this training? Please can we have the format of training grouped as per the below:
 - Face to face
 - Online seminar
 - Guidance email/briefing note
 - Other

Wiltshire Police was one of the forces nationally where Officers and staff did not complete their own disclosure. In respect of PIP2 members of staff, prior to January 2021 they did complete their own disclosure but with RASSO files only.

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PIP1 Investigators received 2 x full days training by an Ex-CPS Head of Unit Lawyer and the DS RASSO lead at the time, spread over 5 weeks utilising their built in 5 weekly training days. This covered disclosure as a whole as they had not received any disclosure training prior to this and the AG guidelines. Due to COVID restrictions, this was delivered via Teams(online seminar), face to face training would have been the desirable option.

PIP2 Investigators received a full day's training by an Ex-CPS Head of Unit Lawyer and the DS RASSO lead at the time, which covered the AG guidelines, again due to COVID restrictions this was delivered via Teams(online seminar), face to face training would have been the desirable option. To add PIP2 Investigators had already received face to face disclosure training in 2019 in order for them to complete disclosure on RASSO files. Anyone who had not received this 2019 training was identified and in addition was given the 2-day PIP1 disclosure training.

In support of this a SharePoint site with guides, videos, policy, and procedure was created. Additionally, a network of Disclosure champions covering each discipline was created, who received extra inputs. They were listed on the disclosure site.

838 students were trained in **Disclosure Foundation**

45 student were trained in **Attorney General Disclosure** training

Therefore a total of **883** students across that timeframe.

2. Following the revised NPCC and CPS Joint Principles for Redaction, was any updated training offered? Again, please break this down by number and by the nature of the training as follows:

- Face to face
- Online seminar
- Guidance email/briefing note
- Other

The Tactical Disclosure Lead for Wilts Police came into possession of the 'Revised NPCC and CPS joint Principles for Redaction' (which was delivered by way of 7 part toolkit via email) on 10/11/2022 after it had been disseminated by the Chair of Wiltshire Police Federation earlier that day. The Chair of Wiltshire Police Federation's email containing this update was sent to 'All police officers'. On 23/11/2022 the Tactical Disclosure Lead communicated this update (with attached material) to the Criminal Justice Unit with directions on implementing the principles when reviewing cases before sending them to the CPS for Pre-Charge advice. Other than force comms and the material being added to the Disclosure SharePoint site there has not been a dedicated face to face input or online seminar on the subject matter. The Tactical Disclosure Lead cannot comment on the handling of the earlier versions of the redaction principles as these predate his posting – The material provided to him on 10/11/2022 is version 2.

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3. Regarding redactions, what software is used by your Force and how many licences do you hold for use in relation to CPS Disclosure?

The Force currently uses Adobe Acrobat Pro to redact documents. DEMS (where we look after our BWV) has the facilities to redact/clip footage. All other media redaction requests go via Fortress request to DVU.

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/>