



WILTSHIRE POLICE

Force Disclosure Unit

Police Headquarters
London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: 8th June 2023

Ref: FOI 2023/537

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 14th May 2023 concerning domestic abuse cases.

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 after having consulted the Performance Team and our Custody department – I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

Can I please have the number of domestic abuse cases for the past 5 years together with the number of cases that the Wiltshire Police force provided and paid for solicitors.

I am aware that the force will provide solicitors free of charge and without any provision of charges being filed and would request the number of occasions be split into two groups:

- one group for those who charges have been filed
- one group for those who have been arrested but not filed with the courts

Our response:

Please see the table below for the number of domestic abuse cases for the last 5 years:

Reported Year	Crimes	Non-Crime Incidents
2018	6214	6111
2019	6664	6504
2020	7314	7036
2021	7324	7070
2022	7454	7253
2023 (to end of April 2023)	2420	2274

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Please note, that the figures above are reports that have been tagged with the Domestic Abuse NICL qualifier.

With regards to providing and paying for solicitors, Wiltshire Police do not provide nor pay for, solicitors. Anyone that has been arrested (or interviewed under caution at a Police station) is entitled to free and independent legal advice under the Legal Aid scheme. The suspect can either choose their own solicitor or from duty solicitor (who works on a rota). In a case of a duty solicitor scheme, the Police will contact the Defence Solicitors Call Centre to arrange a duty solicitor. The Police will only make the calls to request the solicitors on the person's behalf and do not provide (nor pay) for the solicitors.

As part of our Section 16 duty to advice and assist where we can, I would suggest you contact the Legal Aid scheme directly to see if they may be able to provide you with further information.

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.



Force Disclosure Unit

Wiltshire Police HQ, London Road, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 2DN
Telephone 101

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.

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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