



WILTSHIRE POLICE

Force Disclosure Unit
Police Headquarters
London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: 9th June 2023

Ref: FOI 2023/586

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 1st June 2023 concerning Operation Safeguard.

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 our Custody department – I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

Operation Safeguard

Please provide me with the following information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act.

1 Frequency of cell use

1a The number of occasions on which the force's cells have been used to house prisoners under the terms of Operation Safeguard in the following time periods:

- i. the calendar year 2022;
- ii. the period from 1st January 2023 to 6th March 2023;
- iii. the period from 6th March 2023 to present.

In the event data is not available for periods (b) or (c), please provide the number for the most recent available time period, and specify the dates covered.

1b If held, please list the occasions on which cells were used by Operation Safeguard in the periods specified in i, ii and iii, including the name of the custody location and the date(s) on which the cells were used.

2 Number of cells

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Please confirm the number of cells requested by the Ministry of Justice / HMPPS under Operation Safeguard in 2023.

3 Costs of Operation Safeguard

3a Please confirm whether any costs have been incurred by the force as a result of cells being used during Operation Safeguard in 2022 or 2023.

3b In the event costs have been incurred, please confirm whether the force is recapturing costs from HMPPS or the MOJ.

3c If the answer to 3a or 3b is yes, please provide the total figure for:

- i) costs incurred
- ii) reimbursement requested from the MOJ
- iii) costs recaptured.

Our response:

1. Wiltshire Police did not house any prisoners under Operation Safeguard for the time period requested.
2. N/A.
3.
 - a.) No, we did not incur any costs for housing prisoners during this time period, however, we did incur costs for training additional staff in preparation for Operation Safeguard.
 - b.) N/A – as we did not incur costs as a result of cells being used during Operation Safeguard. However, in relation to training costs, we will not be claiming these costs back.
 - c.) N/A.

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