



Police Headquarters
London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN
disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

Date 10th July 2023

Our ref **FOI 2022/628**

Dear ***,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 14th June 2023 concerning drug testing of police officers and staff.

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 Counter Corruption Unit at Wiltshire Police.

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

You wrote/Our Response:

Police Drug Testing Policy Document

Please send a copy of your policy for drug testing of police officers and staff, or a link to it.

The information you are requesting is exempt by virtue of the following exemption under the FOIA:

Section 21 (Information available to the applicant by other means).

The information you have requested is available via our website and can be accessed using the below link:

[Substance and Alcohol Misuse Policy and Procedure \(wiltshire.police.uk\)](https://www.wiltshire.police.uk/substance-and-alcohol-misuse-policy-and-procedure)

Random Drugs Testing data

How many police officers and staff (including PCSOs and Specials) have been subjected to random drug testing in **each** of the last five calendar years, plus the year to date (the last five and a half years)?

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2018 = 76
2019 = 119
2020 = 19
2021 = 97
2022 = 138
2023 = 40

Please give their role or the type of unit they worked in (eg response officer, firearms, patrol, call handler, police staff, PCSO etc).

Due to the level of detail you require, this part of your request is exempt; as to provide you with these details would provide you with information, which in itself may identify individuals, or do so when put together with other information, which you may be able to obtain. This would then be a disclosure of that person's personal information in breach of the Data Protection Principles and therefore, the information you are requesting is exempt by virtue of the following exemption under the FOIA:

Section 40(2) Personal Information.

Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there are no requirements for any consideration of potential harm, or public interest in its application.

Does the test include screening for anabolic steroids?

Drug testing does not include anabolic screening.

For those who gave a sample (again in each of the last five and a half years) please confirm what type of drug/drugs were found and what happened as a result (eg warning, retraining dismissal, tribunal hearing, resignation, name on barred list, criminal charge or conviction etc).

All testing resulted in a negative result.

In each of the last five and a half calendar years how many refused to give a sample and what happened as a result of the refusal (eg warning, retraining, dismissal, tribunal hearing, resignation, name on barred list etc)?

There were no refusals.

With Cause Drug Testing Data

How many police officers and staff (including PCSOs and Specials) have been subjected to drug testing "with cause" in **each** of the last five years, plus the year to date?

2018 = 0
2019 = 0
2020 = 1
2021 = 0
2022 = 0
2023 = 0

Please give their role or the type of unit they worked in (eg response officer, firearms, patrol, community, PCSO etc).

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Due to the level of detail you require, this part of your request is exempt; as to provide you with these details would provide you with information, which in itself may identify individuals, or do so when put together with other information, which you may be able to obtain. This would then be a disclosure of that person's personal information in breach of the Data Protection Principles and therefore, the information you are requesting is exempt by virtue of the following exemption under the FOIA:

Section 40(2) Personal Information.

Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there are no requirements for any consideration of potential harm, or public interest in its application.

Does this test include screening for anabolic steroids?

Drug testing does not include anabolic screening.

If the tests are individually tailored as a result of the intelligence/information which gave the force cause to request a test, please specify in each case what was tested for.

Please give the reason why the test was requested, (eg violent incident, complaint, intelligence etc)

Intelligence led.

Of those who gave a sample please tell me what type of drug/drugs was found and what happened as a result (warning, retraining dismissal, tribunal, resignation, name on barred list etc).

All testing resulted in a negative result.

In each of the last five calendar years, plus this year to date, how many refused to give a sample and what happened as a result of the refusal (eg dismissal, tribunal hearing, resignation, name on barred list etc)?

There were no refusals.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Wiltshire Police, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The exemption applicable to the information requested is:

Section 21: Information available to the applicant by other means

Section 40: Personal Information

In accordance with section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this particular request.

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.

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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

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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 Fol 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

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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/>