



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

Date: 31st July 2023

Ref: FOI 2023/711

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 15th July 2023 concerning transgender officers being able to strip search members of the opposite sex.

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 Policy Officer – I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote & our response:

1. Confirmation of whether or not you have adopted the NPCC guidance, approved Dec 2021, on transgender officers being able to strip search members of the opposite sex.
[The Force has developed draft guidance which will shortly be considered by the new Chief Constable.](#)
2. If not yet adopted, the date you anticipate it will be implemented by.
[Within the next quarter.](#)
3. What consultation (specifying which groups) has been carried out as part of the (potential) implementation process
[Consultation is ongoing with key staff networks.](#)
4. Date and copy of any equality impact assessment carried out as part of this process
[N/A.](#)
5. Copy of your transgender staff / search policy
[No current policy.](#)

6. Confirm what your policy will be with regard to any person objecting to a strip search by an officer who they believe is of the opposite sex - confirm whether this will be recorded as a hate crime/non-crime hate incident
[No decision has been made on this yet.](#)
7. Confirm what your policy will be with regard to female officers/staff being required to strip search natal males, and whether you will support them not having to carry out these as part of their duties where the individual requires a female officer/staff.
[No decision has been made on this yet.](#)

For clarity, I require this information in respect of;

- A. Searches outside of the formal custody office setting, usually referred to as 'street searches' and
- B. Searches in the formal custody office setting.

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