

WILTSHIRE POLICE



Police Headquarters

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

Date: August 8, 2023

Your ref:

Our ref: FOI 2023/715

Reply contact name is:

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information, dated 17th July 2023 concerning sexual offences.

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 Professional Standards Department of Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

You Wrote:

Question 1

- i) Total number of Wiltshire Police officers accused of sexual offences, as outlined by the CPS, including domestic abuse and coercive control since April 2013?
- ii) Total number of allegations against police officers in (i)?
- iii) Type of allegation / offence?
- iv) What action was taken? (Arrests, Charges, No further Action, misconduct hearings etc.)

Question 2

- i) Total number of staff members working for Wiltshire Police accused of sexual offences, as outlined by the CPS, including domestic abuse and coercive control, since April 2013.
- ii) Total number of allegations against staff members in (i)?
- iii) Type of allegation / offence?
- iv) What action was taken? (Arrests, Charges, No further Action, misconduct hearings etc.)

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Question 3

- i) Total Number of officers being reviewed against the PND by Wiltshire Police as part of the national vetting process review that was prompted by the Home Office & National Police Chiefs Council.
- ii) Total Number of staff members being reviewed against the PND by Wiltshire Police as part of the national vetting process review that was prompted by the Home Office & National Police Chiefs Council.

Question 4

- i) Of those identified in Q1i & Q2i, what is the total number of cases that have been identified as needing further investigation.

Response:

The information that you are requesting, specifically for Questions One, Two and Three are not stored in a way which allows for easy retrieval and Wiltshire Police do not have the search facility to automatically gather this data. To clarify, our Professional Standards Department have confirmed that they are unable to search their systems for specific criminal offences and would therefore have to manually search and read each and every conduct matter and complaint individually for the requested time period to see if it related to a specific sexual offence. This would exceed the 18 hour work limit to locate, retrieve and extract the information, therefore Section 12 applies.

Under the circumstances I am absolutely confident that to locate, retrieve and extract the information you seek would by far exceed the time obligations upon this authority to comply, and in so doing would exceed the fees limits. This is set at £450 calculated at a flat rate of £25 per hour for those work activities comprising of confirming the information is held, locating it, retrieving it and extracting it. Therefore the whole of the request should fall under the exemption of section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

However, under our Section 16 obligation to provide advice and assistance, I can advise that regarding Question Three, when the Historic Data Wash has been completed the results will be published on Wiltshire Police's website, which will include the number of officers and staff who were reviewed.

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 12: Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

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

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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,



The 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

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
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/>