

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.ukdisclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

XXXXXX – by E Mail

Date: 30th August 2023

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2023 / 858

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 29th August 2023 concerning Gambling-related Fraud.

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 – having consulted our Business Performance Team - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

I am a lecturer in Psychology at the University of Gloucestershire. I conduct research into gambling and its related harms. I am interested in gambling related fraud/coercion where individuals have been targeted by others in order to take advantage of their betting accounts or identity to place bets. I am currently attempting to understand the specific characteristics and vulnerabilities of victims so education and interventions can be better targeted.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information.

- Individual-level / Granular data (e.g., where each row of a spreadsheet/table represents an anonymised crime report):
- Report dates of reports where victims have been targeted to place bets or their details/accounts have been used by others. I.e., fraudulently (date victim reported crime, "any format")
- Offence dates/periods (e.g., time periods where the crime was said to have taken place - "example: 01/09/2019 – 01/03/2020")
- Charge status ("yes/no")



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

- Criminal justice outcome ("any format")
- Victim characteristics (for example: age, sex, physical and mental/psychological health data, living status, etc. As much information as possible would be very useful here.)
- Offender characteristics (As much information as possible would be very useful here.)

Our response:

No Information Held

There is no obligation on an Authority to supply an explanation when they are providing a No Information Held response, however in this instance – and under our Section 16 duty to provide help and assistance wherever possible - please refer to the following notes which help explain the reasons why data is not held in this instance.

Any Gambling-related crimes of a fraud nature that are identified by Wiltshire Police are referred immediately to the National Fraud Agency (Action Fraud) for recording and possible investigation. Wiltshire Police do not physically keep records of crimes that are referred to the NFA.

In terms of cases of specific Gambling-related fraud being referred to Action Fraud, there are a number of ways in which this can happen :-

- Offences of this kind being reported to Wiltshire Police which we then refer on to Action Fraud to investigate
- Direct reporting to Action Fraud by victims and/or members of the public
- Investigations by Wiltshire Police into other crimes where these types of offences may have occurred and which we then refer the potential Fraud offence directly to Action Fraud to log and investigate
- Referral by other partnership agencies (eg Social Workers etc) where Gambling-related fraud might have been identified and referred directly to Action Fraud
- Referral / whistleblowing directly by members of the public or other parties

In this instance, in order to obtain the information you are requesting, we suggest you submit a separate FOI request directly to the National Fraud Agency.

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,

Nick Penny
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 ext 62005

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.pnn.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