

# WILTSHIRE POLICE



Via Email



## Police Headquarters

London Road  
DEVIZES  
Wiltshire  
SN10 2DN

[disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk](mailto:disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk)

Date 26/09/2023

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: **FOI 2023/884**

Reply contact name is:

Dear ,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 11/09/2023 concerning officer applicants.

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 I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

You wrote:

### REQUEST 1:

Number of applicants through each of the entry routes (PPD, PCDA, DHEP, Other) and if applicable/available the class of the degrees (1:1, 1:2...) in a numerical breakdown (I.e. PPD - 20 applied, 10 - 1:1, 10 - 1:2) (2019-2023)

### REQUEST 2:

Number of applicants EMPLOYED through each of the entry routes (PPD, PCDA, DHEP, Other) and if applicable/available the class of the degrees (1:1, 1:2...) in a numerical breakdown (I.e. PPD - 10 accepted, 7 - 1:1, 3 - 1:2) (2019-2023)

### REQUEST 3:

Can you enter the DHEP with a PPD? And if so, the number of applicants and applicants employed , including (if available) the class of the PPD (1:1, 1:2...)

### REQUEST 4:

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Total number of officers who have previously served as a special constable (or equivalent) compared to the total amount of officers. And if available years of experience as - less than one year, between 1 and 2 years, between 2 and 4 years, and more than 4 years  
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REQUEST 5:

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Total number of officers with military experience/training compared to the total amount of officers, and if available years of experience as - less than one year, between 1 and 2 years, between 2 and 5 years, between 5 and 10 years, and more than 10 years.

Response:

The type of information you require is not stored in a way which allows for easy retrieval. Upon searching for the information requested, it has taken over an hour to ascertain the 87 DHEP candidates, by going through every monitoring excel spreadsheet and filtering them down. Looking through each application form for Degree Certificates, is not only timely but potentially unreliable. Not all candidates upload their certificates, some upload in the incorrect format and we ask these to be emailed in. Also some will have been sent by the candidate directly to the university. Also DHEP candidates will have only been present between June 2020- Present. As prior to this IPLDP was the only available entry, until the switch was made to PCDA/DHEP.

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 falls under the exemption of section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Ordinarily under our Section 16 obligation to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you of a way to refine your request to a more manageable level. However, due to the difficulties in obtaining the requested information, as outlined above, I cannot think of a way in which this could be achieved.

### **Gesture of Goodwill**

Although excess cost removes the forces obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information appertaining to your request that was retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

Normally we would invite the applicant to refine their request to a more manageable level, however considering the issues articulated above, I am not sure how this can be achieved.

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**Request 1** - Asks for all applicants for police officers – would exceed the time limits as each application would need to be reviewed from 2019 – 2023.

**Request 2** there are 87 applications to go through. This is the DHEP route which all applicants would have a degree previously.

**Request 3** of those DHEP if any did have a degree for a police programme (PPD) then this will be stated.

For PCDA's the first cohort in June 23, 23 students achieved a degree where 17 received a pass and 6 received a distinction.

**Request 4** Total number of officers who previously served as a special constable between 2019 - 2023 = 70

| Experience          | Number of officers |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Less than 1 year    | 6                  |
| Between 1- 2 years  | 19                 |
| Between 2 - 4 years | 31                 |
| More than 4 years   | 14                 |

**Request 5** – Military experience – Each application would need to be reviewed for the relevant time frame, which will take over 18 hours.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Wiltshire Police, when refusing to provide 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. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice for those aspects of your request.

Exemptions applied:

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.

Yours sincerely

**Force Disclosure Decision Maker**

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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](mailto: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](mailto: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/>**