



WILTSHIRE POLICE

Force Disclosure Unit

Police Headquarters
London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: 14th September 2023

Ref: FOI 2023/862

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 30th August 2023 concerning unsolved rape cases.

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:

I would like to know how many unsolved rape cases you have recorded in each of the following calendar year:

2003
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020

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2021

2022

2023 – as far as possible to go.

If you can't break these down by year can you please tell me how many unsolved rape cases there are in total that you have recorded?

I'm interested in the cases that remain unsolved and open – ie. The victim is still hoping to get justice but no one has been charged.

Our response:

The information that you are requesting for the years 2003 – 2005 is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval. This is because as of 2006, crimes and incidents were recorded on an online crime recording system which allows us to search and retrieve certain information easily. However, prior to this time, information regarding reports of rape would have been recorded on paper which would require physically sifting through, in order to obtain the information you require.

Therefore, 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.

Please note, that if one part of the request engages a Section 12 response, the whole request will engage a Section 12 response. The reason being is due to the fact that locating, retrieving and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations.

Although excess cost removes the forces' obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available 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. What I am able to provide you are the answers documented below –

Please see the table below for more information.

Please note, that it depends on the definition of unsolved – as you can see below there are cases which are not solved, but these have a no further action outcome and are therefore, not open. Any case marked as "New" below is still actively being investigated.

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Detection Status	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
11: Named suspect below age of criminal responsibility	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	1	2	4	1	5	4	6	4
12: Named suspect too ill to prosecute	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	1	1	0	1	0	1	10	4	0
13: Named suspect but victim/key witness deceased or too ill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	4	0	2	0
14: Victim declines/unable to support action to identify offender	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	21	31	29	27	39	40	41	56	54	21
15: CPS named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	7	32	14	12	12	8	0
15: Police named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3	8	4	50	195	183	188	166	125	23
15: Named suspect ID victim supports but ED	0	1	1	1	0	2	5	29	144	204	227	226	10	0	0	0	0	0
16: Victim declines/withdraws support named suspect identified	0	0	0	0	3	2	2	10	102	148	143	215	211	207	170	183	266	70

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18: Investigation complete no suspect identified	52	100	95	103	127	134	123	105	32	22	32	50	54	48	62	70	28	18
New	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	103	211

Ordinarily under our Section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you how to refine your request to a more manageable level. However, due to the difficulties outlined above, I cannot see how this can be achieved in this particular case.

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.

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

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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