

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXXXXX
By email

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

Date 6th October 2023

Our Ref FOI 2023-878

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 6th September 2023, concerning modern slavery and trafficking Officers. Please accept my apologies for the slight delay in responding to your request.

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 Exploitation & Missing Team, Business Intelligence, Recruitment and Learning & Development departments at Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and I am able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

I am writing to make a freedom of information request concerning information about specialist modern slavery officers and training.

Please tell me:

- 1) As of 6th September 2023, how many specialist modern slavery and trafficking police officers are employed by the force? Please provide a breakdown by both rank, and by PIP level, where applicable.
- 2) As of 6th September 2023, how many vacancies are there for specialist modern slavery and trafficking police officers in the force? Please provide a breakdown of the vacancy rank and PIP level, where applicable
- 3) Does the force have a specialist modern slavery and trafficking unit? Please provide the name of this unit, and its budget for the last five financial years
- 4) How many a) officers and b) police staff does the force employ and, as of 6th September 2023, how many of these have received specialist modern slavery training during their employment to date? Please distinguish between officers and staff in your answer

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5) As in question 4, how many a) officers and b) police staff have received modern slavery training in the past year, the past two years and the past three years? Please provide separate answers for each time period and please only include current employees

6) How many staff work in a procurement function, and how many of these have completed specialist modern slavery training?

7) How many staff working in a procurement function have received modern slavery training in the past year, the past two years and the past three years? Please provide separate answers for each time period and please only include current employees

Our response:

I have considered your request and I am able to provide a partial response to your request. Some of the information relevant to this request is exempt by virtue of Section 31(1)(a)(b) - Law Enforcement.

Section 31 is a qualified prejudice-based exemption and therefore requires Wiltshire Police to establish the harm in disclosure, along with the public interest favouring and against disclosure.

- 1) As of 6th September 2023, how many specialist modern slavery and trafficking police officers are employed by the force? Please provide a breakdown by both rank, and by PIP level, where applicable.

No information held - Wiltshire Police do not have a specific unit that solely deals with Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. This is split across multiple departments, therefore we have Officers across the Force that would have modern slavery training and would deal with this type of crime as part of their normal investigative duties.

- 2) As of 6th September 2023, how many vacancies are there for specialist modern slavery and trafficking police officers in the force? Please provide a breakdown of the vacancy rank and PIP level, where applicable

None - We do not have any post specific specialist Modern Slavery and Trafficking Officers.

- 3) Does the force have a specialist modern slavery and trafficking unit? Please provide the name of this unit, and its budget for the last five financial years

No

- 4) How many a) officers and b) police staff does the force employ and, as of 6th September 2023, how many of these have received specialist modern slavery training during their employment to date? Please distinguish between officers and staff in your answer

As of 1st September 2023, we have 1187 officers and 1077 staff. This includes Maternity leave, secondment and career breaks.

The number of Officers who have received specialist modern slavery training is exempt from disclosure. Please see below harm and public interest tests.

- 5) As in question 4, how many a) officers and b) police staff have received modern slavery training in the past year, the past two years and the past three years? Please provide separate answers for each time period and please only include current employees

The number of Officers who have received modern slavery training is exempt from disclosure. Please see below harm and public interest tests.

- 6) How many staff work in a procurement function, and how many of these have completed specialist modern slavery training?

There are 8 staff who work in a procurement function. No staff members have received specialist modern slavery training.

- 7) How many staff working in a procurement function have received modern slavery training in the past year, the past two years and the past three years? Please provide separate answers for each time period and please only include current employees

No staff members have received specialist modern slavery training.

Harm test

Disclosing information into the public domain - specifically the number of Officers with specialist / modern slavery training - would undermine the core principles of policing; namely to prevent and detect crime. Disclosure of this information would cause substantial harm to planned policing operations, and all individuals involved i.e. police employees and the community. If Wiltshire Police were to place this information into the public domain, this would prejudice our ability to prevent and detect crime, and to apprehend or prosecute offenders; providing offenders with the information they would need to evade detection, and therefore effecting the Force's ability to protect the community.

Factors favouring disclosure

Placing this information into the public domain would lead to an increased public awareness of these issues. This in turn may lead to a reduction in crime or more information being supplied by the public, and would also allow the public to better protect themselves against crime. Disclosure would also ensure that Wiltshire Police can be held accountable for the actions taken, and show the Force as being as open and transparent with the public as possible.

Factors against disclosure

Placing the number of Officers with specialist / modern slavery training into the public domain would hinder our ability to prevent and detect crime. This would result in investigations being compromised, as offenders would be able to gain valuable information that would assist them in evading capture, which they would be able to use to their advantage; i.e. disclosing the specific number would reveal our capabilities and capacity as a Force for dealing with this specific type of crime, but would also allow offenders to build a national picture of where there may be vulnerabilities in policing this type of crime. By offenders evading capture, the public will be put at a greater risk resulting in trust in the Force diminishing and increase of crime being seen. Disclosure of information sensitive to operations and tactics used would severely impact on the Force's resources, also assisting offenders to evade capture.

Balance test

Whilst there is a public interest in transparency and openness between the Force and the public, in addition to the public seeing how the Force are engaging with the threat from offenders, there is a stronger interest in ensuring the public are protected from this threat and that the enforcement of the law and the prevention and detection of crime is upheld. To disclose information likely to assist offenders would seriously undermine the effective delivery of operational law enforcement, and is therefore exempt from disclosure.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Constabulary, 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.

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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 31(1)(a)(b) - Law Enforcement

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,

Abigail Standidge

Phone: 01722 547081

Email: abigail.standidge@wiltshire.police.uk

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



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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 to contact them, please visit <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>

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