

# WILTSHIRE POLICE



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

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Ref: FOI 2023/982

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023 concerning female victims of knife crime.

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 see the data you have for the number of women injured through knife crime, killed by knife crime, or threatened with knife crime between January 2017 - December 2022.

If possible, it would be helpful to know if the victim was a) known to the perpetrator b) romantically involved with them.

If you would be able to provide this data with the month, year, number of female victims and the type of knife crime in the area policed by Wiltshire Police.

And, if possible, the number of victims for the month and year that were known to the perpetrator or romantically involved with them.

## **Our response:**

The information that you are requesting for part of your request is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval. This is because, in order to determine whether the perpetrator was known to the female victim and was or was not romantically involved with her, for those females who were injured as a result of knife crime – this would involve us having to manually peruse through each report and log for the time frame requested. Whilst we have a “victim accused field” within our systems that we can use to state the

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perpetrator's relationship to the victim (such as brother, ex-spouse, partner, carer, etc), this is a non-mandatory field which means that officer's and staff do not need to fill out this field. As a result of this field not being used reliably, it is therefore subject to human error and the fields where no information has been inputted and/or the fields where a slightly ambiguous relationship type (such as: "acquaintance") has been filled out; each of these occurrences would need to be physically reviewed in order to accurately obtain the information you require.

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 –

The tables below show the number of knife crime reports there has been whereby the victim is female:

| <b>Occurrences</b>            | <b>2017</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>2019</b> | <b>2020</b> | <b>2021</b> | <b>2022</b> | <b>Grand Total</b> |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Knife/blade (used/threatened) | 96          | 84          | 88          | 115         | 89          | 127         | 599                |
| Knife/bladed(possession)      | 32          | 28          | 31          | 17          | 16          | 35          | 159                |
| <b>Grand Total</b>            | <b>128</b>  | <b>112</b>  | <b>119</b>  | <b>132</b>  | <b>105</b>  | <b>162</b>  | <b>758</b>         |

With regards to the number of females killed by knife crime during the time frame requested, please see below –

- 1 female killed by knife crime in May 2019.
  - Female victim did know the perpetrator and was romantically involved with the perpetrator.
- 1 female killed by knife crime in June 2020.
  - Female victim did know the perpetrator and was romantically involved with the perpetrator.
- 1 female killed by knife crime in June 2020.
  - Female victim did know the perpetrator and was not romantically involved with the perpetrator.

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

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](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)