

WILTSHIRE POLICE



Via email



Police Headquarters

London Road

DEVIZES

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

Date 05/12/2023

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2023/1087

Reply contact name is:

Dear ,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 10/11/2023 concerning prepared press releases that were not publicly released for October 2023.

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:

Please can you share all press releases pertaining to crimes in Swindon and Wiltshire that were prepared by the Wiltshire Police Press Communications Team but not released publicly for October of this year.

Please can you also share any press releases that were prepared in advance by the Wiltshire Police Press Communications Team on an 'if asked' basis that were not shared with a media outlet because no requests were made for them for October of this year.

Response:

There are no draft press releases that fall into the 1 - 31 October date range on our archive system.

To note, the vast majority of draft press releases are approved or amended and are no longer draft but approved press releases.

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- To fulfil the request using approved press releases, we would have to manually search, in every topic we have on our software system for logging interactions with media, created in October to ascertain whether or not “if asked lines” were put in place. According to the data provided, that is 225 topics
- In addition to this, we would need to individually check with every SIO in each of these cases that they are happy there are no operational issues with issuing these if asked lines now which, given they are agreed at a moment in time (some two months ago), could likely cause issues (in that suspects might have been charged with offences, the medical condition of victims changed etc)

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:

No Information Held (with S12 advice for using “approved press releases” rather than “draft releases”)

Please contact me if you would like to discuss the withheld information.

Yours sincerely

Force Disclosure Decision Maker



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.

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

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/>