

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXXXXX
By email

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

Date 8th December 2023

Our Ref FOI 2023-1118

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 20th November 2023 concerning sexual offences at Larkhill Camp.

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 able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

How many alleged sexual offences including rape have been reported to the police between December 2020 and October 2023 at Larkhill Camp Wiltshire?

How many charges have been brought for alleged sexual offences including rape between December 2020 and October 2023 at Larkhill Camp Wilts?

How many investigations into sexual offences including rape are ongoing at Larkhill Camp, Wilts?

Our response:

Please note:

- ❖ This data is correct as of 21.11.2023.
- ❖ The results have been returned through a 'wildcard' search of the short address field using the term 'Larkhill'. A 'wildcard' search is not a fully accurate way to conduct searches, as any short address with the term 'Larkhill' mentioned would be returned within the results. Please also be aware that if an offence occurred within the boundary of Larkhill Camp, but the short address did not mention 'Larkhill' for whatever reason, this would **not** have been returned in the results.

From the raw results, I have cross-checked the short addresses provided and included those which appear as though they occurred within the boundary of Larkhill Camp. **I have defined the boundary of Larkhill Camp as the area within the gates to enter / leave the Camp, therefore this may be subjective as another Decision Maker may have defined this differently.**

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

Where the short address only mentioned 'Larkhill' (without any further details i.e. road name etc), I have checked these occurrences manually on our recording system to establish whether they were relevant to your request. If so, these have been included within the results.

To provide a fully accurate picture would require manually reviewing every sexual offence and rape occurrence within the requested period to determine whether it was relevant to your request. This would engage a s12 exemption (cost) under the FOIA.

How many alleged sexual offences including rape have been reported to the police between December 2020 and October 2023 at Larkhill Camp Wiltshire?

6

How many charges have been brought for alleged sexual offences including rape between December 2020 and October 2023 at Larkhill Camp Wilts?

0

How many investigations into sexual offences including rape are ongoing at Larkhill Camp, Wilts?

The response to this question is exempt under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 by virtue of the following exemption - Section 30(1) Investigations.

Section 30 is a class based, qualified exemption and therefore requires a Public Interest test to be carried out.

Factors favouring disclosure

Police investigations are publicly funded, and therefore the public have the right to know where the funding and resources for Wiltshire Police are being spent. Providing a disclosure would show Wiltshire Police are being open and transparent with the public, and would allow the public to scrutinise the way in which crimes are investigated within our Force area. Additionally, the disclosure would ensure the public are reassured that all lines of enquiry are investigated.

Factors against disclosure

The integrity of investigations is fundamental to our ability to police and to provide our service to the public. To provide a disclosure in relation to any ongoing investigation(s) would show Wiltshire Police do not take seriously the responsibility of appropriately handling and managing investigations. Disclosing would lead to existing, or planned, investigations being compromised and may provide offenders with information that there is an investigation into their crimes, even if they are not aware of the investigation at this stage. In turn, this would cause victims or potential victims to become reluctant in engaging with the Force, which would seriously undermine our ability to effectively conduct investigations.

Balance test

Wiltshire Police are charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. Whilst we agree there is a public interest in the transparency of policing operations, and providing assurance that we are appropriately and effectively engaging with the threat from criminals, there is a stronger public interest in safeguarding the integrity of our investigations. For these reasons, the Public Interest lies in favour of non-disclosure of the information that has been requested.

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.

Exemptions applied:

Section 30(1) - Investigations

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,

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



Keeping Wiltshire Safe

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 Fol 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/>

Keeping Wiltshire Safe