

**Police Headquarters**

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

Date: January 29, 2024

Our ref: FOI 2023/1173

Reply contact name is:

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information, dated 8th December 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.

Following receipt of your request, research was conducted by the Team Performance and Vetting Departments of Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

You Wrote:

Please provide the number of police officers and staff that were employed on November 29, 2023, in your police force.

Please provide data on how many police officers and staff in your police force were working on November 29, 2023, with an expired RV clearance.

NOTE: By expired RV clearance we mean officers and staff working over the 10-year renewal period as defined in 8.49 - Renewing clearance in the College of Policing Vetting APP.

Please provide data on how many police officers and staff in your police force were working with an expired MV clearance on November 29, 2023.

NOTE: By expired MV clearance we mean officers and staff working over the 7-year renewal period as defined in 8.49 - Renewing clearance in the College of Policing Vetting APP.

Please provide data on the number of police officers and staff accused of Violence Against Women and Girls-related misconduct or gross misconduct from November 2022-November 2023 in your police force.

NOTE: By misconduct and gross misconduct, we mean as defined under Regulation 2(1) The Police (Conduct) Regulations 2020, misconduct means a breach of Standards of Professional Behaviour that is so serious as to justify disciplinary action and gross misconduct means a breach of Standards of Professional Behaviour that is so serious as to justify dismissal.

NOTE: By VAWG-related misconduct or gross misconduct we mean as measured in the NPCC Violence Against Women and Girls Benchmark as some form of inappropriate sexual conduct (rape, sexual assault, abuse of position for sexual purpose and other sexual conduct) and discreditable conduct, which is a defined standards of professional behaviour which would include inappropriate sexual behaviours or domestic abuse.

Please provide data on how many of the police officers and staff accused of VAWG-related misconduct or gross misconduct, as specified in response to question 4, were also working on expired vetting at the time they were accused in the year November 2022-November 2023.

NOTE: By misconduct and gross misconduct, we mean as defined under Regulation 2(1) The Police (Conduct) Regulations 2020, misconduct means a breach of Standards of Professional Behaviour that is so serious as to justify disciplinary action and gross misconduct means a breach of Standards of Professional Behaviour that is so serious as to justify dismissal.

NOTE: By VAWG-related misconduct or gross misconduct we mean as measured in the NPCC Violence Against Women and Girls Benchmark as some form of inappropriate sexual conduct (rape, sexual assault, abuse of position for sexual purpose and other sexual conduct) and discreditable conduct, which is a defined standards of professional behaviour which would include inappropriate sexual behaviours or domestic abuse.

Please provide data on how many police officers and police staff accused of Violence Against Women and Girls-related misconduct or gross misconduct were referred for re-vetting when accused in the year November 2022-November 2023.

NOTE: By misconduct and gross misconduct, we mean as defined under Regulation 2(1) The Police (Conduct) Regulations 2020, misconduct means a breach of Standards of Professional Behaviour that is so serious as to justify disciplinary action and gross misconduct means a breach of Standards of Professional Behaviour that is so serious as to justify dismissal.

NOTE: By VAWG-related misconduct or gross misconduct we mean as measured in the NPCC Violence Against Women and Girls Benchmark as some form of inappropriate sexual conduct (rape, sexual assault, abuse of position for sexual purpose and other sexual conduct) and discreditable conduct, which is a defined standards of professional behaviour which would include inappropriate sexual behaviours or domestic abuse.

Please share details of your force's policy on renewal periods between initial RV vetting and re-vetting.

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Please provide data on the average time between initial RV vetting and re-vetting of all police officers and staff currently serving in your police force.

Response:

The information that you are requesting, specifically for Questions Two and Three, are not stored in a way which allows for easy retrieval and Wiltshire Police does not have the search facility to automatically gather this data. To clarify, our Vetting Department have confirmed that to ascertain this information they would first need to be supplied with data from another department / system to establish each individual that was working on that specific day. Once they had this, they would then have to conduct their own checks to answer these Questions. This would exceed the 18 hours and therefore the whole of the request should fall under the exemption of section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

However, under our Section 16 obligation to provide advice and assistance, I would advise that you could resubmit your request without these Questions. However please note that other exemption(s) may be applicable.

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 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,

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/>