

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.ukdisclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

XXXXXX – by E Mail

Date: 8th February 2024

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2024 / 077

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 18th January 2023 concerning Local Policing and 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 – having consulted our HR and Business Performance Teams - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

Please provide the following information:

I am interested in the unit of organisation commonly referred to as Local Policing Areas, Divisions, Districts or Basic Command Units. They are typically aligned to local authority or community safety partnership boundaries.

For each of these areas within your force, I would like to know:

- the name of the area, any corresponding ONS geographical code (these are typically a 9-digit string comprising the letter E followed by 8 numerical characters), and any short string code used by the force as shorthand to represent the geography.
- the first and last name and rank of the current senior officer responsible (often known as the 'local commander' or similar) for the policing of that area, the date they were appointed, and an email address for the individual or position.
- the first and last name and rank of the the last two senior officers in that post, and the dates they were in the roles
- if no ONS code is provided: a description of the geographic extent of the area and the boundaries to which it is aligned (this might be one or more local authorities, or community safety partnerships, or similar)

Further, for each of the above areas a list of the smaller geographic areas that your force uses to organise and deliver local policing (these might commonly be called 'neighbourhoods' and will typically either be an individual ward or a collection of wards), including:



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

- the name of the area, any corresponding ONS geographical code, any short string code used by the force as shorthand to represent the geography
- if no ONS code is provided: a description of the geographic extent of the area and the boundaries to which it is aligned (this might be an individual ward or a collection of wards).

I consider this information to be of substantial public interest and utility in understanding and improving the organisation and accountability of local policing and the response to crime and disorder.

Our response:

Wiltshire Police is currently split into two distinct Policing Areas or Hubs – Swindon and County.

Swindon Hub

Commander – Superintendent Guy Elkins guy.elkins@wiltshire.police.uk
Appointed – 30th October 2023

The previous two Swindon Hub Commanders were :-

T/Superintendent Joe Saunders – in role from 26th June 2023 to 29th October 2023
Superintendent Phil Staynings – in role from 1st December 2019 to 4th June 2023

County Hub

Commander – Superintendent Doug Downing douglas.downing@wiltshire.police.uk
Appointed – 30th October 2023

The previous two County Hub Commanders were :-

Superintendent Conway Duncan – in role from 4th September 2023 to 29th October 2023
Superintendent Liz Coles – in role from 13th September 2021 to 3rd September 2023

With regard to the structure of our Local Policing within each of these Hub Areas (and overall), this information is exempt under Section 21 of the FOIA (Information available to the applicant by other means).

However under our Section 16 duty to be as helpful as possible to an applicant, the following links to the Wiltshire Police website will provide you with the information you require around our various policing areas :-

www.wiltshire.police.uk/police-forces/wiltshire-police/areas/about-us/local-policing-in-wiltshire/

www.wiltshire.police.uk/police-forces/wiltshire-police/areas/about-us/about-us/leadership/slt/senior-management-team/

The ONS Geographical Codes you refer to in your request are actually LSOA (Lower Layer Super Output Area) Codes – these comprise between 400-1200 households and a population of 1000 and 3000 people.

Wiltshire Police use LSOA codes to map to our smallest areas of Policing Jurisdiction. Please refer to the attached file for a list of the latest codes we use.

Please note however, that these are based on the 2011 Census information as opposed to that from the Census of 2021. We currently have some current IT issues which are precluding us loading the latest Census Data into our business systems.

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 part of the information requested is:

- Section 21 Information Accessible to the applicant by other means

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,

Nick Penny
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 ext 62005

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.pnn.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