



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

Date: 9th February 2024

Ref: FOI 2024/116

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 28th January 2024 concerning missing persons with dementia.

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 after having consulted Business Intelligence, Missing Persons and our Public Protection Department – I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote & our response:

1. Can I have the statistics on the number of reported cases involving dementia missing persons over the past year?
[35.](#)

[Please note, that the data provided in this response is for the calendar year 2023.](#)

2. What is the average response time for the police when dealing with dementia missing persons?
[0:38:57.](#)
3. What is the average response time for the police when dealing with non dementia missing persons?
[02:08:57.](#)
4. What are the success rates in locating dementia missing persons?
[1.](#)
5. Can I have the log for the common challenges or obstacles faced by police when searching for dementia missing persons?

No information held – Wiltshire Police do not hold a log or any sort of document which details the sorts of common issues and obstacles faced by the force when searching for a missing person with dementia. Furthermore, please be aware that the FOI Act is all about information we, as a force, may hold, so if we do not hold the information requested, we are not obligated to create new information for the purposes of fulfilling an FOI request and neither under the Act, are we obligated to provide personal opinions on a topic.

6. What, if any, training is in place to prepare police staff to respond specifically to missing person cases where the missing person is suspected to have dementia?
Dementia is covered briefly within the mental health training that is provided to new officers and also to Mental Health TAC advisors. A lesson on mental health conditions/disorders is delivered and dementia is discussed there, including the fact that it is not actually a mental illness.
There is no specific dementia course for officers as such. The aim is not to train officers to be able to identify specific conditions; that is not our role and is best left to others more qualified. That being said, we are working on a new dementia strategy with training being one aspect of that. So, this is something that may happen in the future, even if only for selected officers rather than all.
7. What are the success rates for locating non-dementia mispers?
Out of the 13,268 missing episodes from Feb 2018 – Dec 2023 inclusive, we have 13 people still outstanding (success rate of 99.9%).

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

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