

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXX – Via email

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

Date 15th March 2024

Our Ref FOI 2024-212

Dear XXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 20th February 2024 concerning child trafficking.

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 Public Protection department at Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and I am able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

1. Please provide the number of children who have been recorded as trafficked to the UK by your police force.
2. Please provide a breakdown of where the children were trafficked from, eg. Romania, Sudan.
3. Please provide an age breakdown of the children rescued from trafficking. Please do this by each year eg. 11, 12, 13
4. Please provide details as to what the children were trafficked to the UK for, eg. Slave Labour, Sexual abuse etc.
5. Please provide data on how many of these children have been returned to their home country and how many have been granted residency in the United Kingdom.

Please can I have data for the last five years, broken down by year.

Our response:

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

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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.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), this request is exempt by virtue of the following exemption:

Section 40(2) - Personal data

Information which constitutes personal data is exempt under Section 40(2) of the FOIA if it relates to a third party, and the disclosure to the public would contravene the data protection principles set out in Section 34 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and Article 5 of the GDPR.

Section 40 is an absolute exemption and therefore there is no requirement to articulate the harm or conduct a Public Interest test.

However, to assist you as best I can under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act but maintain the rights and entitlements of those individuals; I can disclose that there has been 1 child trafficked to the UK and they are still within the UK.

Wiltshire Police can neither confirm nor deny that it holds any other information with regard to an exempt body as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply by virtue of the following exemption:

Section 23(5) Information Supplied by, or concerning Security Bodies.

Section 23 is a class based absolute exemption and there is no requirement to consider the public interest in this case. No inference should be taken as to whether any other information that would meet your request does or does not exist.

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 40(2)- Personal Information

Section 23(5) – Information Supplied by, or concerning Security Bodies

In accordance with Section 17 of the Act, this letter acts as 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,

Force Disclosure Decision Maker

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