

WILTSHIRE POLICE



Via Email



Police Headquarters

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

Date: 01/03/2024

Our ref: FOI 2024/108

Reply contact name:

Dear

I write in connection with your request for information dated 26/01/2024 concerning online child abuse gangs.

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 policy officer, public protection and training departments at Wiltshire Police.

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

You wrote with **Response**

Please could you provide information on the following:

1. Do you have a published/unpublished policies on how you engage with Online Child Abuse Gangs (OCAGs)? If yes, please can you provide a link?

No information held

2. Are mental capacity tests used to assess the capacity of the accused to understand the nature of an offence in the event of OCAG activity leading to arrest?

Mental capacity is outlined by the [College of Policing](#). Everyone in contact with the police would be assessed under this Act, if at the material time they unable to make a decision for themselves.

3. Do you have a policy for recording, processing, and validating evidence provided from OCAGs? If yes, please can you provide a link?

No information held

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4. Do you provide policing staff with any training around engaging with and making use of evidence from OCAGs?
Yes but OCAGs are only referred to in to PIP1 and PIP2 training. There is not specific training regarding OCAGs

5. Do you provide any training on working with suspects with learning difficulties?
Yes. This is covered in the Mental Health and Learning Disabilities training we delivered to officers and now to all new front-line officers, PCSOs and VCT staff. It is also referenced in the vulnerability session delivered to the same groups. ? In addition training regarding suspect with learning difficulties is provided to PIP2 during their suspect interview training.

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.



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.

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

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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/>