



Police Headquarters
London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: July 26, 2024

Our ref: FOI 2024/593

Reply contact name:

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 19th June 2024 concerning human remains.

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 Major Crime Investigation Team at Wiltshire Police.

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

You Wrote:

- 1.How many unidentified bodies or sets of human remains you currently have under your jurisdiction, broken down by decade found, gender, and ethnicity.
- 2.How many of these unidentified persons cases are represented on the National Crime Agency's database (found here).
- 3.How many of these unidentified persons have facial reconstructions or facial photos associated with them.
- 4.How many of these unidentified persons have DNA associated with them, broken down according to testing status.
- 5.How many of these unidentified persons are assigned to an investigator.
- 6.How many of the investigations into identifying these bodies or sets of remains would be considered "cold" i.e., all viable leads in the investigation have been exhausted and the Senior Investigating Officer (SIO) considers there is nothing further that can be progressed in the investigation at that time.

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7. Whether you currently engaging with any charities, universities, or other organisations (e.g., Locate International, Missing People) to further investigation of unidentified persons cases.

8. Your currently status with regards to the use of forensic/investigative genetic genealogy (FIGG) to investigate unidentified persons cases.

Response:

Please note that samples (such as DNA and small tissue samples) can be taken where there is a criminal justice purpose, and these samples can be retained by police as part of any relevant investigation which they have a duty to carry out. However, bodies / remains will be in coronial jurisdiction – the police would not have jurisdiction over any unidentified bodies.

Question One

No Information Held.

Questions Two to Eight

N/A

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.

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:

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

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/>