



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

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Ref: FOI 2024/679

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024 concerning information sharing with Children's Services.

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 our Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub – I am now able to respond as follows.

**You wrote:**

When a report is received from a member of the public, by Wiltshire Police, in which alleges that an individual is regularly driving under the influence of cannabis (drug driving) and the alleged offender's child is sometimes a passenger in the vehicle, I believe the information would be recorded through the creation of an intel report if it did not relate to a particular occasion with a specific timeframe and was not a 'live' incident.

As the Police would be aware of the suggestion that a child is sometimes a passenger in the vehicle, which is clearly a safeguarding matter, I understand the Police would likely make a referral to Social Care. It is the expected practice that the identity of the source of the intelligence would not be shared with Social Care, as only information directly relevant to the safeguarding concern would be shared.

If a decision is made by the Police to make a referral to Social Care, would this be communicated by the Police to the member of the public, if they asked? As for example, their interest stems from being a member of the child's family.

**Our response:**

No, we would not inform a member of the public of such a referral regardless of whether that member of the public be the subject or source of the intelligence or have any particular relation to an individual they believe to be the subject of intelligence.

Our MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) are passed intelligence to review and assess as to whether any further onward sharing to Children's Services is relevant, necessary, and proportionate. This is for cases where the intelligence raises safeguarding and child protection concerns.

Each piece of intelligence our MASH team receive for their consideration is reviewed and they will decide based on several circumstantial factors, whether the intelligence reaches the threshold for sharing with Children's Services. If the threshold is met, then our MASH team will share what is relevant, necessary and proportionate to Children's Services and partner agencies as appropriate.

We do not require consent or permission from the subject or source of the intelligence as sharing intelligence which raises safeguarding and child protection concerns is necessitated as part of our statutory duty to safeguard a child/children.

When intelligence with a safeguarding or child protection concern is shared, the receiving party is made aware that intel is NOT fact and this information is only provided to enable a child to be safeguarded.

Please note, that there may be other departments who share intelligence with Children's Services, for example, within multi-agency meetings attended by Neighbourhood Policing Teams, however again, we do not inform either the subject or source of the intelligence of whether any referral has been made.

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](mailto: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](mailto:mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk)