

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.ukdisclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

XXXXXX – by E Mail

Date: 1st August 2024

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2024 / 660

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 14th July 2024 concerning Information Management and Intelligence.

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 – having consulted our Information Management, Intelligence and Policy Teams - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote (and Our Response) :

1) The College of Policing requirements for Information Management specify that each UK police force must have an Information Management Strategy (IMS):

<https://www.college.police.uk/app/information-management/management-police-information/common-process-managing-police-information#information-management-strategy>

Please provide a copy of your local Police Force's IMS.

Please find attached a copy of our Information Management Policy – this is the nearest equivalent to an IMS that we hold.

2) Please provide your Policy relating to the Management of Intelligence. As an example, I have attached Surrey's and Sussex's Policy.

We do not have a general policy on the Management of Intelligence. We rely on the College of Policing APP on Intelligence Management.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

3) Do you use the same system for crime and intelligence recording? What are the name(s) of the system?

Yes - Niche RMS

4) In accordance with the National Intelligence Model, all intelligence should be handled using the 3x5x2 grading system, in which three source gradings exist; Reliable, Untested and Unreliable. In order to supplement National documents, an example of which I have attached and information available from National Policing College, via weblink:

<https://www.college.police.uk/app/intelligence-management/intelligence-report> — what internal written material on the subject of intelligence has been produced by your Police Force (i.e. Guidance/a Handbook/Aide Memoire/Page on your Intranet or similar in nature) and is available to assist your officers? Please provide a copy of the information

Whilst there is other training and guidance material held by Wiltshire Police related to the handling of Intelligence, the disclosure of this information is exempt by virtue of s31(1)(a)(b) of the Act.

Please see below for the respective harm and public interest tests.

Harm test

Modern day policing is intelligence led, and law enforcement depends upon the development of intelligence and the gathering and security of evidence in order to disrupt criminal behaviour, reduce crime, keep people safe and bring offenders to justice.

To provide the additional material we hold – beyond the current College of Policing APP – would release to the world at large details of specific tactical and operational information (a lot of it covert) related not only to Wiltshire Police but other Forces around the country. It would also reveal details of our current limitations as a Force and reveal specific intelligence that is known about current and historic OCG's (Organised Crime Gangs) and particular offenders. This information would be extremely useful to those involved in criminal activity as it would enable them to plan operations and assist them in avoiding detection.

Public Interest Considerations

Section 31

Factors favouring disclosure

Disclosing information relevant to this request would lead to a better informed public and provide a worthy example as to how public funds are used in a Policing context – which may also encourage individuals to provide intelligence to Wiltshire Police.

Factors against disclosure

Disclosing this additional information would suggest that Wiltshire Police do not take their responsibilities seriously in terms of trying to reduce crime, disrupt criminal behaviour, protect the public and bring offenders to justice.

Balancing Test

The Police Service is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. As part of that policing purpose, information is gathered which can be highly sensitive and relating to high profile as well as covert intelligence. Weakening the mechanisms currently used to monitor and reduce any type of criminal activity would not only put the safety of the citizens of the county at an increase risk of danger but would inevitably lead to an increase in crime and victims of criminal activity. Therefore, in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

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.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice for those aspects of your request.

Exemption applied:

Section 31(1)(a)(b) – Law Enforcement

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,

Nick Penny
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
Telephone 101 ext 62005

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.pnn.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:

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