



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

Date: 30th December 2024

Ref: FOI 2024/1022

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 20th November 2024 concerning Claire's Law disclosure requests. My apologies for the delay.

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 I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

You wrote:

1. Please can you tell me how many people have contacted you with Claire's Law disclosure requests each year since the law was introduced in 2014.
2. How many people making requests were given the information they wanted within 28 days - in each year.
3. What was the average wait time?
4. What was the longest anyone had to wait for their disclosure information in each year.
5. How many in each year resulted in people being warned their partner was a potential danger.

Our response:

The information that you are requesting for part of your request (namely questions 2-4) is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval. This is because in order to provide you with this level of detail, each Claire's Law request made since 2014 would have to be physically perused in order to obtain this information, as we would not be able to extract this data accurately in any other manner. In relation to average wait times, this is

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information we may not hold and as you may be aware, the FOI Act is all about information a public authority holds and therefore, we are not obligated to potentially create any new information in order to furnish an FOI request.

Therefore, under the circumstances I am absolutely confident that to locate, retrieve and extract the information you seek would by far exceed the time obligations upon this authority to comply, and in so doing would exceed the fees limits. This is set at £450 calculated at a flat rate of £25 per hour for those work activities comprising of confirming the information is held, locating it, retrieving it and extracting it.

Please note, that if one part of the request engages a Section 12 response, the whole request will engage a Section 12 response. The reason being is due to the fact that locating, retrieving and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations.

Although excess cost removes the forces' obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request. What I am able to provide you are the answers documented below –

1. Please can you tell me how many people have contacted you with Claire's Law disclosure requests each year since the law was introduced in 2014.

Year	DVDS Applications
2014	66
2015	157
2016	248
2017	262
2018	305
2019	443
2020	531
2021	654
2022	662
2023	744
2024 (Jan-Nov data only)	962 (est. 1050 for full year)

5. How many in each year resulted in people being warned their partner was a potential danger.

This is the same number as total disclosures made, i.e. a disclosure is only made where a person is warned their partner/ex-partner is a potential risk.

Year	Total number of disclosures made
2014	44
2015	93
2016	87
2017	83
2018	105
2019	142
2020	181
2021	251
2022	173
2023	221
2024 (Jan to Nov data)	372 (est. will be circa 483 for complete year)

Ordinarily under our Section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you how to refine your request in respect of questions 2-4 to a more manageable level. However, due to the difficulties outlined above, I cannot see how this can be achieved in this particular case.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Wiltshire Police, when refusing to provide such 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.

The exemption applicable to the information requested is:

Section 12 – Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

In accordance with Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents 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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www.wiltshire.police.uk | [Facebook/wiltshirepolice](https://www.facebook.com/wiltshirepolice) | [Twitter/@wiltshirepolice](https://twitter.com/wiltshirepolice) | [LinkedIn/company/wiltshirepolice](https://www.linkedin.com/company/wiltshirepolice)

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.

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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