

**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: 10th December 2024

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2024 / 1083

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 9th December 2024 concerning Statute of Limitations.

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 Crime Standards Team - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

The total number of Offences across all affected cases, which couldn't be Prosecuted/Considered for Prosecution, as the Statute of Limitations (for affected Offences) had lapsed. Please may I clarify here, if there have been cases in which multiple Offences couldn't be Prosecuted/Considered for Prosecution (due to Statutory Time Limits lapsing), please might it be possible to get the total number of Offences which couldn't be proceeded with.

I understand Statutory Time Limits may lapse during initial investigations, or, whilst cases are being reconsidered under (Police and CPS) Victim's Right to Review schemes - Please may I request figures for the total number of cases (by year, if possible) which couldn't be Prosecuted/Considered for Prosecution, due to Statutory Time Limits lapsing (regardless of the stage at which STLs may have lapsed).

Please might it be possible to request this information for the last 20 years?

Our response:

When a suspect for a crime has been identified but the time-limit for a prosecution has expired it is allocate the Home Office outcome code of 17.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Outcome 17 was only introduced in April 2014, so there is no information to provide for the years 2004 to 2013.

The number of crimes (each year) that have been closed under Outcome 17 are as shown in the table below :-

Year	Crimes closed under Outcome 17
2014 (from April)	30
2015	49
2016	124
2017	184
2018	177
2019	272
2020	456
2021	433
2022	468
2023	357
2024 to date	304

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