

**Police Headquarters**

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: February 7, 2025

Our ref: FOI 2024/1126

Reply contact name is:

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information, dated 24th December 2024 concerning modern slavery.

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.

You Wrote:

1. The number of records of contact, reported incidents, and recorded crimes from the past five years (1 January 2019 - 24 December 2024) of suspected modern slavery within the waste sector. Please can you provide a breakdown of the number of reports per year.
2. Details of what the outcome of any completed investigation was - e.g were any arrests made.
3. The number of times the Environment Agency reported suspected modern slavery to the police force over the past five years (1 January 2019 - 24 December 2024). Please can you provide a breakdown of the number of reports per year.
4. Details of what these reports said. Please can this include the name of the site that was reported and details of the concerns raised.
5. The number of incidents or recorded crimes of modern slavery within the waste sector that your police force referred to the National Crime Agency and/or partners in the Joint Waste Crime Unit (JWCU) in the last five years (1 January 2019 - 24 December 2024). Please state the number referred to the NCA, and the number referred to the JWCU separately
6. Correspondence (including letters, emails, minutes of meetings and any relevant attachments) between the Environment Agency and constables, sergeants, and inspectors within the police force over the past year (1 January 2024 - 24 December 2024) relating to modern slavery within the waste sector.

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

Response:

Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) requires Wiltshire Police to confirm or deny whether the requested information is held. To establish whether the information is held – namely 'correspondence...between the environment Agency and constables, sergeants and inspectors over the past year...relating to modern slavery' - would in itself exceed the time obligations placed upon the authority to comply (18 hours) and therefore engages section 12(2). This is as we would need to essentially search and read each and every electronic document received from the listed ranks as well as every physical document throughout the entirety of Wiltshire Police. As the requested ranks could have visited any space owned by Wiltshire Police, we would have to search each and every room, desk, locker etc... individually.

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(2)

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,

Wiltshire Police offers a re-examination of your case under its review procedure.





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:

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/>