

**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 email

Date: 31st January 2025

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2025 / 069

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 17th January 2025 concerning Missing Persons.

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:

Where possible, can you please provide me with the following in regards to missing persons:

1. Number of individual adults reported missing in the last rolling twelve months.
2. Total number of missing “periods” reported to your force (1 adult reported as missing twice would be two “periods”).
3. Percentage of adults who are known to have been caused harm during a missing person episode.
4. Percentage of adults who are known to have caused themselves harm during a missing person episode.
5. Percentage of these adults reported as missing who could be considered as “frequent mispers” (10+ episodes in a rolling twelve-month period).
6. Number of individual children reported missing in the last rolling twelve months.
7. Total number of missing “periods” for children.
8. Total number of these children reported missing from care homes.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

9. Percentage of children who have been caused harm during a missing person episode.
10. Percentage of children who have caused themselves harm during a missing person episode.
11. Percentage of these children that have been reported as missing who could be considered as “frequent mispers” (20+ episodes in a rolling twelve month period).
12. Total number of low-risk missing persons (for each of the last 5 years)
13. Average length of time missing for low-risk missing persons (for each of the last 5 years)
14. Number of low-risk missing persons who have been found deceased during a missing period (for each of the last 5 years)
15. Total number of medium-risk missing persons (for each of the last 5 years)
16. Average length of time missing for medium-risk missing persons (for each of the last 5 years)
17. Number of medium-risk missing persons who have been found deceased during a missing period (for each of the last 5 years)
18. Total number of high-risk missing persons (for each of the last 5 years)
19. Average length of time missing for high-risk missing persons (for each of the last 5 years)
20. Number of high-risk missing persons who have been found deceased during a missing period (for each of the last 5 years)

Our response:

The information that you are requesting for questions 3,4 9 and 10 of your request is not stored in a way that permits easy retrieval.

Whilst our recording systems for Missing Persons are fairly sophisticated, we do not monitor or log resultant harm caused by Missing Persons – it would only be possible to ascertain this information by reiewing each and every missing episode in turn and researching all the data saved for each including PPN's, statements and so on.

Having liaised with our Missing Persons Team, they have confirmed that given the sheer number of these missing incidents, this task would take many days to complete.

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.

It should also be noted that there is no obligation on an Authority to create data where none exists today (eg for questions 3,4,9 an 10) simply to answer an FOI request.

Ordinarily, if one part of a request engages a Section 12 response, the whole request should 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.

However, in this case, although excess cost removes the forces' obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill – and under our Section 16 duty to be as helpful as possible to an applicant - 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 :-

Question 1

495

Question 2

581

Question 5

0

Question 6

545

Question 7

1,193

Question 8

Our records do not distinguish between children in cares placements – so we can provide a total of children looked after, but not separated into care homes/foster care/semi-independent. Our response to this question is therefore – No Information Held.

Question 11

5

Question 12

2020 78

2021 76

2022 88

2023 70

2024 48

Question 13

2020 94:49

2021 81:36

2022 83:09

2023 33:20

2024 52:09

Question 14

2020 1

2021 1

2022 0

2023 0

2024 1

Question 15

2020 1,553

2021 1,288

2022 1,922

2023 1,905

2024 1,085

Question 16

2020 18:56

2021 16:06

2022 23:58

2023 12:24

2024 17:20

Question 17

2020 1

2021 1

2022 4

2023 1

2024 1

Question 18

2020 272

2021 224

2022 215

2023 497

2024 603

Question 19

2020 07:08

2021 09:22

2022 22:13

2023 22:42

2024 15:08

Question 20

2020 9

2021 6

2022 4

2023 12

2024 11

Ordinarily under our section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you how to refine your request in respect of questions 3, 4, 9 and 10 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,

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