

**Police Headquarters**

London Road  
DEVIZES  
Wiltshire  
SN10 2DN

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025

**Our ref: FOI 2025/025**

Reply contact name:

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 7<sup>th</sup> January concerning Claire's Law.

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 able to respond as follows.

**You wrote:**

I would like to file an FOI request for the following data, pertaining to the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Clare's Law), for each annual period from 2014\* - 2024 inclusive.

Within each period that follows, please could you provide:

- How many DVDS requests were received within each period?
- How many of those requests within each period were fulfilled?
- How many of those requests within each period were rejected?
- And, if retrievable, reason(s) for rejection?

The periods in question are from 01 January to 31 December (inclusive) within each year 2014 - 2024 (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024).

For example, in 2014, between 01 Jan - 31 Dec inclusive, X DVDS requests were received, X were fulfilled, X were rejected. Of those rejected, X number were rejected owing to X reason, and X were rejected owed to X reason.

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\*Or as the scheme was implemented – please specific.

### Response:

The information that you are requesting for part of your request (namely question 4, reasons for rejection) is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval. The ascertaining of this information would only be possible by physically reading every application in the timeframe you are requesting.

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 –

| Year | Total applications | Disclosure given | Disclosure not given |
|------|--------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 2024 | 131                | 44               | 87                   |
| 2023 | 179                | 93               | 86                   |
| 2022 | 248                | 87               | 161                  |
| 2021 | 262                | 83               | 179                  |
| 2020 | 305                | 105              | 200                  |
| 2019 | 443                | 142              | 301                  |
| 2018 | 531                | 181              | 350                  |
| 2017 | 654                | 251              | 403                  |
| 2016 | 662                | 173              | 489                  |
| 2015 | 744                | 221              | 523                  |
| 2014 | 1058               | 440              | 618                  |

Whilst we are unable to retrieve the reasons for non-disclosure, the most common reasons are (in no specific order and non exhaustive):

- Application does not meet the criteria – for example - person at risk (PAR) and subject of application not in a relationship, have not been in a relationship and not considering a relationship

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- No information held to disclose on subject of the application
- Information to disclose, but already known to the applicant/PAR
- PAR declined disclosure.

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**

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](mailto: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**

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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](mailto: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/>**