



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

Date: 17th February 2025

Ref: FOI 2025/133

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 3rd February 2025 concerning Police pensions.

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 after having consulted our Finance team – I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

1. How many adult survivors have lost their entitlement to receive a "widow's pension" because they have either remarried or started to cohabit? Please provide the relevant data for each Police Force over the last ten years on a year-by-year basis.
2. How many adult survivors have had their pension reinstated in circumstances where they have divorced their new spouse or ceased cohabitation with their new partner? Again please provide the relevant data for each Police Force over the last 10 years.
3. What information is given to a widow when a widows pension first comes into payment? Please provide copies of the information provided.
4. What further information is sent to a widow once the pension is in payment? Please provide copies.
5. Do you send letters to widows periodically to verify they are still living alone and not remarried or cohabiting? If so please provide copies
6. Do you require a countersigned certificate to verify a widow has not remarried or cohabited? If so please provide copies.
7. If a widow remarries or cohabits, what information do you send to the widow? Please provide copies.
8. Do you send further letters to those whose pension has been withdrawn as a result of remarriage or cohabitation to verify their circumstances are still the same [i.e. they are still remarried or cohabiting]? If so please provide copies.

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9. What information do you send a widow if a pension is reinstated? Please provide copies.

Our response:

No information held.

However, as part of our Section 16 duty provide advice and guidance where possible, it may be worth contacting XPS Group directly as they are our pension administrators, and they may hold information which may assist.

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.

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.

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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

Website : <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>