

# WILTSHIRE POLICE



Via Email



## Police Headquarters

London Road  
DEVIZES  
Wiltshire  
SN10 2DN

Date 14/07/2025

Our ref **FOI 2025/632**

Reply contact name is:

Dear \*\*\*\*\*,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 02/07/2025 concerning strangulation offences between June 2024 – June 2025.

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 it is not possible to meet your requirements in full.

### You wrote:

1. Please provide the total number of recorded strangulation offences [Domestic Abuse Act (2021, section 70) and the Serious Crime Act (2015, section 75A)] from 7th June 2024-6th June 2025 (inclusive), with the below details (as many as are recorded on your systems) for each case:

- a. Victim sex and gender
- b. Victim age
- c. Victim ethnicity
- d. Victim disability
- e. Suspect sex and gender
- f. Suspect age
- g. Suspect ethnicity
- h. Suspect disability
- i. Relationship between victim and suspect
- j. Context of the strangulation offence
- k. Any additional offences at the time of the strangulation offence
- l. Whether these cases are domestic abuse-flagged
- m. Whether these cases are part of a rape or serious sexual offence investigation
- n. Police assigned outcome and additional rationale where available

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2. Please also provide as many of the above details (a-n) as possible for any additional cases involving non-fatal strangulation, where this has been flagged/ featured within an alternative offence, but not recorded specifically as an offence of strangulation.

### **Response:**

Please note: We have been able to provide some detail before it became apparent that this would take over the time / cost limits. This information is held within the attached spreadsheet. (Provided under our S16 obligation to assist where possible)

The following details have resulted in a S12 response:

D - Victim disability  
H - Suspect disability  
J - Context  
K - Additional offences  
M - Part of a RASSO investigation  
N - Rationale for outcome

We have been able to provide some detail before it became apparent that this would take over the time / cost limits. This information is held within the attached spreadsheet. (Provided under our S16 obligation to assist where possible)

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at s1(1)(a) is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held. The second duty at s1(1)(b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held.

Whilst I can confirm Wiltshire Police do hold the requested information, section 12(1) of the FOIA states:-

*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.*

The type of information you require is not stored in a way which allows for easy retrieval. When recording a crime, Wiltshire Police do not have a specific field in which to indicate victim and suspect disabilities, whether the incident is part of a RASSO investigation, or the rationale for the outcome of a crime / non-crime. We are also unable to provide details on additional offences. To provide this information, we would need to manually peruse all relevant crime reports within the timeframe given.

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. Therefore the whole of the request falls under the exemption of section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

### **Please note:**

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.

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Forces may use different recording systems; therefore it may be possible some Forces can provide this information where others cannot.

Ordinarily under our Section 16 obligation to provide advice and assistance we would advise you of a way to refine your request to a more manageable level. Due to the difficulties in obtaining the requested information, as outlined above, I cannot think of a way in which this could be achieved. In respect of other questions within your request, I cannot think of a way in which you would be able to refine these questions, as they may incite further exemptions dependent on what information we may or may not hold.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Wiltshire Police, when refusing to provide 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. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice for those aspects of your request.

Exemption applied:

#### **Section 12: Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit**

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 Fol 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.

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#### 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](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/>