

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXXX – By email

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

Date 11th August 2025

Our Ref FOI 2025-689

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 21st July, concerning domestic abuse by police officers.

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.

Following receipt of your request, research was conducted by Team Performance at Wiltshire Police. Your request for information has now been considered and I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

You wrote:

I am writing under the Freedom of Information act to request data held on crimes investigated by your force which were flagged as Domestic Abuse (DA) related, their recorded outcome, and if a named suspect's occupation is 'police officer' or related role*, from 1 January 2021 to 30 April 2025.

Specifically, I request the following information, broken down by month and outcome. Please break down outcomes by HOCR type i.e. Type 1 Charged/Summonsed, Type 2 Youth Caution, etc.

N.b. this request refers to crime investigations, not professional standards/misconduct.

* My understanding is that occupation recording is not standardised, therefore I request that you include job titles like 'police officer' / 'serving officer' / 'special constable' / specific job titles if listed i.e. 'police constable' or 'police sergeant' – but do not include civilian titles like 'police staff' or PCSO. I also understand that occupation may not always be recorded (see Q3).

Q1) All recorded crime investigations flagged as DA, total broken down by month and outcome type, 2021 to end of April 2025. Grouped by date investigation was opened.

Month	Outcome type 1	Outcome Type 2	...etc	Ongoing/live	Total

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Q2) Similarly, but for only those investigations where a named suspect has a recorded occupation of police officer* (see definition above), all recorded crime investigations flagged as DA, total broken down by month and outcome type, 2021 to end of April 2025. Grouped by date investigation was opened.

Month	Outcome type 1	Outcome Type 2	...etc	Ongoing/live	Total

Q3) If possible and not exceeding cost limitations please also indicate, of the total number of investigations in Q1, ...

- The number which have at least one named suspect.
- The proportion of linked suspects who have any occupation recorded.

Our response:

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 information you are requesting – in particular, question 2 – is not stored in a way which permits for easy retrieval. Wiltshire Police crime recording systems do not have a mandatory field where the occupation of a suspect must be recorded. In order to determine how many suspects involved in domestic abuse cases were police officers (or similar roles), we would be required to manually review the documents linked to each occurrence to see if this is something that has been recorded. Within the time frame, there are over 29,000 occurrences that would need to be reviewed. It is worth noting that if we were able to review each occurrence within the time frame, there may be incidents where the suspects occupation has not been recorded and therefore the data would not be reliable.

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 should fall 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.

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.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires 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.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss the withheld information.

Yours sincerely,

Force Disclosure Decision Maker