

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXX
Sent via email: XXX



Police Headquarters
London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: 05/11/25

Our ref: FOI 2025/993

Reply contact name is XXX

Dear XXX

I write in connection with your request for information dated 21/10/25 concerning investigations of women on suspicion of illegally ending pregnancy.

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:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am writing to request the total number of criminal investigations opened by your police force into women on suspicion of illegally ending a pregnancy in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 (to date).

Please:

1. Provide separate figures for each specific year, and another for all the years combined
2. Break down the figures into 'no further action' OR 'charge made' OR 'investigation ongoing' where possible
3. Do not include more than one entry where the same individual has been criminally investigated more than once on suspicion of illegally ending their pregnancy
4. Take 'illegally ending a pregnancy' as anything listed in the Notifiable Offences List under the following categories:
 - o 014/01 Procuring an illegal abortion - Administering drugs or using instruments to procure abortion
 - o 004/03 Child destruction - Intentional destruction of a viable unborn child

From the above offences, please only include investigations where the woman who is / was pregnant is the suspect.

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

Response:

I must inform you that the number of women that have been under investigation for illegally ending a pregnancy has been relatively low, therefore in order to provide you with a comprehensive breakdown I would be bound to impart detail which, if it were put together with other information you may have at your disposal, would inevitably lead to not only identifying individual women but would provide you with a full summary of the incidents and specific crimes against them. As such the data would be sensitive personal data under the terms of the Data Protection Act of 1998 and therefore it is arguable that the request is exempt under the provisions of section 40(2) of the freedom of Information Act.

The exemptions applicable to the information are:

Section 40 Personal information-

(2) Any information to which a request for information relates is also exempt information if—

(a) it constitutes personal data which do not fall within subsection (1)

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 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.

I am satisfied that all the relevant information has 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. 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

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/>