

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXXXXX
By email

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

Date 23rd April 2026

Our Ref FOI 2026-371

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 17th April 2026 concerning Standard Operating Procedures or guidance relating to Officer contact during a PSD investigation.

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 the Professional Standards Department (PSD) at Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and I am able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

1. QUESTION REDACTED – Section 40 applies.
2. QUESTION REDACTED – Section 40 applies.
3. A copy of any **internal Standard Operating Procedure, guidance document, or instruction** held by the Professional Standards Department, or by the Force, which governs whether and how the Officer in the Case on an underlying incident should be contacted, interviewed, or asked for a witness statement when PSD is investigating a complaint that turns on the attribution of advice or authority to that officer.
4. The **title and reference number** of any document described at Q3. Where any such document is exempt in full, please confirm its existence and identify the exemption relied upon.
5. QUESTION REDACTED – Section 40 applies.
6. Whether any internal review or learning exercise has been conducted or is planned, following the Internal Review outcome of FOI 2025/864 (issued 16 April 2026 by NAME REDACTED), in light of its finding that no local policy is held on officer-complainant contact during the statutory review period.

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

Our response:

Questions 1, 2 and 5 of this request are exempt under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) by virtue of Section 40(1)(2)(5) - Personal data.

When the personal data relates to the requester submitting the FOI, then it will be exempt under Section 40(1) and the correct avenue to gather the information would be via a Right of Access request.

Information which constitutes personal data is exempt under Section 40(2) of the FOIA if it relates to a third party, and the disclosure to the public would contravene the data protection principles set out in Section 34 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and Article 5 of the GDPR.

Wiltshire Police can neither confirm nor deny that it holds information relevant to this request by virtue of Section 40(5). This is because confirmation or denial of the information requested would constitute personal data and as a result, would contravene the first Data Protection Principle, which states in part to process personal data fairly and lawfully.

No inference can be taken from this refusal that the information you have requested does or does not exist.

Section 40 is an absolute exemption and therefore there is no requirement to articulate the harm or conduct a Public Interest test.

Regarding question 3 and 4, all Police Forces PSD departments follow the Police Conduct Regulations 2020 for their procedures and therefore there are no bespoke local SOPs / guidance / instruction - [The Police \(Conduct\) Regulations 2020](#).

Regarding question 6, this engages Section 8(1)(c) of the Act since the question is asking for an opinion, not for information held by the Force, and therefore it is not considered valid.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Constabulary, 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.

Exemptions applied:

Section 8(1)(c) - Request for Information
Section 40(1)(2)(5) - Personal Information

In accordance with Section 17 of the Act, this letter acts as 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,

FDU Decision Maker