

Coroner Service Privacy Notice

Coroner Service

The Wiltshire and Swindon Senior Coroner is a separate entity to both Wiltshire and Swindon Local Authorities and is an independent judicial officer holding office under the Crown. The post holder is obliged to carry out their duties in accordance with the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and the Coroners (Inquests) Rules 2013.

Purpose

Coroners investigate deaths that have been reported to them if it appears that:

- the death was violent or unnatural
- the cause of death is unknown, or
- the person died in prison, police custody, or another type of state detention.

In these cases, coroners must investigate to find out, for the benefit of bereaved people and for official records, who has died and how, when, and where they died.

You can find out more information here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guide-to-coroner-services-and-coroner-investigations-a-short-guide>

Disclaimer and Privacy Statement

The content of these pages are provided as an information guide only. No responsibility is accepted by or on behalf of Her Majesty's Coroner for Wiltshire and Swindon for any errors, omissions, misleading statements on these pages or on any site to which these pages connect, including any feature or aspect of such site or pages whether provided by the Coroner, Wiltshire or Swindon Councils, any Departments or Agencies of Her Majesty's Government or any other organisation, company or individual.

Coroner General Data Protection Regulations Privacy Notice:

We will hold your data in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation and any current UK Data Protection Act.

HM Coroner for Wiltshire and Swindon is the Data Controller responsible for all judicial data.

We will process your data to:

Determine who the Deceased was, when and where and how they died and to record the Registration Particulars to enable Death Certification. We are a Court of Record and we progress from preliminary enquiries to investigation and to Inquest as the evidence is

considered. Inquests are public hearings. This is an aspect of the constitutional right to open justice.

The law says in order to process your personal data, we must have one of these reasons:

- When it is our legal duty
- When we have official authority or there is a public interest

The Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and The Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013 allow us to process personal data.

Data we process

Data of the deceased, comprising comprehensive information, including the circumstances of the death, the cause of the death and medical history together with identification evidence from third parties (visual/DNA/fingerprinting/odontology etc).

Data of the living associated with the deceased, including family (Next of Kin) and legal representatives, comprising contact data and witness statements. S47 Coroners & Justice Act 2009 defines Interested Persons. If you are a Next of Kin, we will hold the limited personal data to contact you.

Visitors to the website

No personal data is gathered automatically by HM Coroner for Wiltshire and Swindon when someone visits this website.

Sharing personal data processed by the Coroner

Data will be shared with:

Assistant Coroners

Coroner's Officers

Coroner's Administrators

Coroner's Court Officers

and will inevitably involve the family, Interested Persons, and relevant stakeholders.

Stakeholders can include:

GPs

Hospitals

Emergency Services

Funeral Directors

Registrars

Pathologists

Toxicologists

Other Courts and Tribunals

Media

Local Authority/Central Government

HTA

Mental Health Services

Emergency Planners

Alcohol and Drug Services

Safeguarding Boards and Teams

We may share your data with organisations with which we have a contract in order to provide the service e.g. IT providers or Wiltshire Council which acts as our Business Support.

We will not sell your personal data to any other external organisation or individual.

We will not share it with any other third party unless required to do so by law e.g. law enforcement agencies such as the police, HMRC, Immigration, ICO etc

Where we store your data

Data is held securely.

In the case of a death concerning a foreign national, we are obligated under the Vienna Convention to notify the relevant Consular Office/Embassy or the police may do so on our behalf. Also, there may be an exchange of information in the event of a death abroad.

How long will we keep your data?

Coroner's records must be retained for at least 15 years under Regulation 27 The Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013.

Records are disposed of securely via the Council's approved process.

Publication of your personal data

A Court or Tribunal may, where it is strictly necessary in the interests of the administration of justice, place restrictions on personal data, such as an individual's name, which is placed in a judgment. It may also hold legal proceedings in private and place restrictions on access

to court and tribunal files. Such decisions are judicial decisions and can only be taken within legal proceedings. Individuals wishing to raise such matters should seek legal advice.

Subject Access Rights

You have limited rights regarding the data we hold about you. There is an absolute exception from the various data subject rights and the obligations in the GDPR where personal data is processed by a coroner acting in a judicial capacity.

You may make a request to HM Coroner regarding any data held. Any such request can be submitted to:

Wiltshire and Swindon Coroner's Office
26 Endless Street
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP1 1DP

Telephone: 01722 438900

Email: WSCoronersOffice@wiltshire.gov.uk

Whether HM Coroner agrees to your request will depend on the specific circumstances and if it is not possible then we will explain the reasons why.

Complaints or queries

Please note that where Coroners or Coroner's Officers are exercising judicial functions the Information Commissioner has no supervisory authority.

If you have concerns about how your personal data was processed by the judiciary exercising judicial functions, you should contact the **Judicial Data Protection Panel**. The Panel can be contacted via the **Judicial Office** Data Privacy Officer at:

11th Floor Thomas Moore Building,
Royal Courts of Justice,
London WC2A 2LL

Or by email: JODataPrivacyOfficer@judiciary.uk

Further information can be found here

[Judicial Data Processing Complaints Handling Policy](#)

Freedom of Information FOI

The Coroner is not a public authority for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) which means they are not obliged to respond to FOI requests; however, they will attempt to provide statistical information in the public interest where possible.

The Coroner abides by a separate legislative regime relating to disclosure of documents by Coroner's which are set out in the Coroner Inquest Rules 2013.

Non-Judicial Activities

If your concerns relate to non-judicial activities please contact:

dataprotection@wiltshire.gov.uk

Changes to this privacy notice

We keep our privacy notice under regular review. This privacy notice was last updated on *6 November 2019*.