

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.ukdisclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

XXXXXX – by email

Date: 19th April 2021

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2021 / 320

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 7th April 2021 concerning Financial Crimes and Fraud.

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:

I would like to know how many financial crimes were reported to your force within the year starting 1st March 2019 and the year starting 1st March 2020.

If possible, please break the number of reports down by month and also type of crime, for example, online fraud, courier fraud etc.

If it does not exceed the cost limit, I would be grateful if you could tell me the number of people charged in each category.

Our response:

The information that you are requesting is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.

Whilst our crime recording systems are fairly sophisticated we do not have specific flags on our systems to record whether a recorded offence is a Financial Crime (as opposed to something else), or indeed to break down it down further into on-line fraud, courier fraud and so on.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Financial Crimes could be resident on our systems in a number of different ways, for example :-.

- a) the fraudulent use of someone's credit card could be recorded under "Theft from a Person" , "Fraud" or even listed as what we call a Summary Offence (Miscellaneous crime that doesn't fit any particular category)
- b) The tapping of someone else's electricity is recorded under a specific Home Office Crime Classification Code
- c) Courier fraud is likely to be contained within Theft of Mail but could also be held within other crime categories - (such as "Theft from a Person" or "Other Theft" or again as a Summary Offence – and would need specific extraction)
- d) Most Fraud offences are referred to a National Body and we would have limited information on those on our systems

We do have the capability to undertake "wildcard" or free-text searches on our systems for the words "Financial Crime" , "Fraud" , "Credit Card" etc but these are far from ideal and we are not comfortable providing the results of searches run using that method for a number of reasons , such as (but not limited to) the following :-

- a) Miss-spelling of words would mean a record would not be returned in a search
- b) There could be tens of different variants of description that could be related to a "Financial" related crime yet not even feature in the summary description of an offence
- c) Any searches are reliant on they key word actually being mentioned in the abbreviated summary description of an offence (we are not able to search the whole offence log of an offence so if the keyword required featured in that reather than the summary, again it would not be returned in any searches made).

However, the only way to ascertain the information you require accurately would be to manually access each and every Theft Crime and Summary Offence recorded on our database for the 2 year time-period you require and to determine whether the incident met your criteria of a "Financial Crime" or not.

Given that Wiltshire Police record something in excess of 10,000 Theft Offences and 20,000 Summary Offences in any given calendar year, 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.

Under our section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance wherever possible, I have contacted you twice since you submitted your request to try and get you to refine your request to one which we could respond to, however I have not received a response from you to either of those E mails.

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

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,

Nick Penny
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
Telephone 101 ext 62005

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.pnn.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.

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