



Force Disclosure Unit

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.uk

disclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Date: 29th April 2021

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2021 / 391

Reply contact name is: Kerry Merritt

I write in connection with your request for information dated 28th April 2021 concerning Tool thefts.

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:

- 1) How many crimes of tool theft from a vehicle, classed as 'van' or 'light commercial vehicle', where 'tools', 'tool', 'tools power' or 'tools sundry' were recorded as stolen has there been since (2017-2021) broken down by month?
- 2) How many crimes of tool theft from a construction site, where 'tools', 'tool', 'tools power' or 'tools sundry' were recorded as stolen has there been since (2017-2021) broken down by month?
- 3) How many crimes of tool theft from a commercial property, where 'tools', 'tool', 'tools power' or 'tools sundry' were recorded as stolen has there been since (2017-2021) broken down by month?
- 4). How many of these cases resulted in a police charge?
- 5) How many of these cases resulted in tools being 'recovered' or 'returned to owner'?
- 6) What was the total monetary value of tools stolen per reported case?
- 7) What was the profession / job title / industry of the person who reported a tool theft incident from a van, commercial vehicle and on-site / property?
- 8) What type of tool was reported as stolen across each case logged from 2017-2021
- 9) Can you provide the day of the week the case was reported for each crime from 2017 - 2021?
- 10) Please can you provide the town names where each tool theft case was reported from 2017-2021?



Our response:

The information that you are requesting is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval. We currently do not have the capability within our systems to specifically record a number of categories of information which might otherwise enable easy searches for information.

We do not classify the type of vehicle from which a theft has occurred – all Thefts from a Vehicle are recorded under the same specific crime recording category, we do not record whether the theft has been from a car, a van, a lorry, a light commercial vehicle etc.

In addition, we do not record tool thefts from vehicles in a separate manner from the thefts of other items from vehicles such as personal belongings (handbags, cash, clothing etc), car parts (eg wing mirrors, number plates etc). The Home Office crime recording categories we use are either Thefts of Motor Vehicles or Thefts from Motor Vehicles, we do not have any requirement to break down the data at a lower level than that currently.

Also, we do not currently have the capability within our system(s) to record the specific property that has been stolen, or it's estimated or known value. The details of the property stolen in a theft can be found in the body of the crime log, in victim's or officer statements or within the free text of the call log report.

In respect of whether or not any stolen items have ever been located and/or returned to the owner, this is not something which we summarily record anywhere.

The only way of ascertaining the information you require would be to physically read every crime occurrence during the time period you have requested that relates to all Thefts including Thefts from Motor Vehicles to try and locate the information you need. In many instances, the items stolen will not have been recorded exactly (if at all) and any detail around whether or not they were located and returned to the victim are almost certainly going to be incomplete anyway.

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.

Ordinarily under our section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you how to refine your request to a more manageable level. However, due to the difficulties outlined above, I cannot see how this can be achieved in this particular case.

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,

Kerry Merritt
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 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