

**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: 1st July 2021

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2021 / 559

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 30th June 2021 concerning E-Scooters.

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 – having liaised with our Business Performance Team - I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

You wrote:

Please may you provide me with:

- 1) The number of crimes recorded by your force in 2020 AND between 1/1/2021 and 31/06/2021 in which the initial incident report mentions the word “e-scooter” or “electric scooter”. Please note: this is where e-scooters are simply mentioned within the crime log rather than the focus of (or reason for) the offence.

Please provide a breakdown of these crimes including:

- the month of the crime
- the offence(s) recorded
- the investigation outcome
- a summary of the crime report describing the circumstances of the offence

- 2) Also, please provide me with the amount of e-scooters you have seized in 2020 AND between 1/1/2021 and 31/06/2021

Please provide a breakdown of these crimes including:

- the month of the crime
- the offence(s) recorded



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Our response:

The information that you are requesting for Q2 of your request is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.

Whilst our crime recording systems are fairly sophisticated, we do not have separate fields where we record the details of any property that is seized by Wiltshire Police in relation to any crime or incident.

The only way to ascertain this information would be to access and read every crime/incident log individually to identify whether an E-Scooter / Electric Scooter had been seized or not.

Given that Wiltshire Police typically record in excess of 40,000 individual crimes in any given calendar year (plus many 1,000's of incidents) 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.

Although excess cost removes the forces' obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request. What I am able to provide you are the answers documented below :-

Question 1

As requested, we have undertaken a "wildcard" or "free-text" search of the summary details of all the crimes we have recorded for the time period(s) you have requested and have found the following 3 instances where the words "e-scooter" or "electric scooter" appear :-

Repd Month	Offence Category	Summary	DetectionStatus
Apr-20	Theft other	Unknown male has stolen the IP's electric scooter from inside the shop whilst the IP was shopping.	18: Investigation complete no suspect identified
Apr-21	Robbery	12yr old IP out in local park on his new electric scooter. Approached by a group of 8-10 children and one of them demanded he let him have a ride. IP said no. IP then grabbed and dragged off the scooter and the youths made off with it.	15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties
May-21	Theft from the person	RP states that Known male has stolen his Electric scooter from RP's girlfriend who was in possession of the scooter at the time of the incident.	Investigation ongoing

Please Note :-

- When it comes to wildcard or free-text searches we are only able to search the abbreviated summary description of the recorded offence (this is limited to some 400-odd characters) and not the whole Occurrence Log which often runs in to many, many pages.
- If the words “e-scooter” or “electric scooter” are mentioned in the body of the longer full Occurrence Log but not in the abbreviated summary description as mentioned above, then these records will not be returned within a “wildcard” or “free-text” search.
- “Wildcard” or “free-text” searches are not reliable in that they rely on the keywords being searched for being spelt correctly. If there was an entry spelt incorrectly as “electric scoter” per-se then, again, it would not be returned in any searches undertaken this way.

For the reasons above we are not generally comfortable to provide information into the public domain where “wildcard” or “free-text” searches have been used unless – as in this instance – an applicant specifically requests them.

Had we been able to undertake “wildcard” or “free-text” searches of the complete Occurrence Log rather than only the abbreviated summary of crime records it would have been possible to answer Q2 in detail rather than having to exempt a response due to time-cost for the reasons stated above.

Ordinarily under our section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you how to refine your request in respect of questions 2 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,

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