

**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: 26th July 2021

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2021 / 620

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 23rd July 2021 concerning video evidence from members of the public for traffic offences.

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. As part of its enforcement of driving offences, does the force accept the submission of video evidence by members of the public to report driving offences, whether the recording device is handheld or attached to a vehicle or rider (e.g. dash/handlebar/helmet cameras)?

If yes, for each of the past four years (2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020, please provide answers for each year separately):

2. How many submissions of video evidence were received by the force relating to reports of driving offences?
3. How many of these reports:
 - a. Resulted in prosecution (court action)?
 - b. Resulted in a fixed penalty notice being issued and accepted?
 - c. Resulted in a driver being offered an NDORS course as an alternative to prosecution/FPN?
 - d. Resulted in a warning letter?
 - e. Resulted in no further action being taken?
 - f. Resulted in some other action being taken (please specify)?



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Our response:

The information that you are requesting in respect of Q2 is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval as there is no tag/marker on our crime recording database to record whether a submission of dashcam / helmet or handlebar cam footage or similar was made in respect of a particular traffic offence.

Therefore to ascertain the information you are requesting would involve a manual search by reading each and every traffic offence crime report for the time period requested, to identify whether or not source material of that nature may have been submitted to us by members of the public in relation to offences of that nature.

We would then need to review the outcome of any such offence where this source material was received and record the relevant details to answer Q3.

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 is the answer documented below :-

Question 1

Wiltshire Police have not accepted dashcam, headcam or handlebar camera footage for several years now in respect of poor driving (eg going through a red light and so on), primarily due to staff shortages.

We do however accept dash cam if there is a road traffic collision involved or if an offence is likely to result in a prosecution of some kind.

In the event of serious or fatal collisions Wiltshire Police may also put out appeals via the various social media platforms to request members of the public to submit any footage they may have which might assist in any ongoing enquiries.

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 and 3 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