

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.ukdisclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.ukDate: 14th September 2021

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2021 / 688

Reply contact name is: Kerry Merritt

Dear ****,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 20th August 2021 concerning Firearms/shotgun licences.

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 you the information you have requested.

You wrote:

1a How many firearms licence holders are there in your police force area?

1b How many shotgun licence holders are there in your police force area?

2a How many firearms licence applications did your police force receive each year since 2010?

2b How many shotgun licence applications did your police force receive each year since 2010?

3a How many firearms licence applications were refused by your police force each year since 2010?

3b How many shotgun licence applications were refused by your police force each year since 2010?

4a On how many occasions did GPs decline to complete a medical information form for shotgun and firearms licence applications? Please provide figures for each year since 2010.

4b How many applications were granted without a GP having completed a medical information form? Please provide figures for each year since 2010.

5a How many firearms licences were revoked by your police force each year since 2010?

5b How many shotgun licences were revoked by your police force each year since 2010?

6a How many firearms licences were returned by your police force after having been temporarily revoked each year since 2010?

6b How many shotgun licences were returned by your police force after having been temporarily revoked each year since 2010?



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Our response:

The information that you are requesting namely for question 4 is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval. Please note that Wiltshire Police do not keep these details separately and the only way to determine the answers to this question would be to manually access individual records to find the answer, which would undoubtedly take over the 18 hours.

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.

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 :-

For questions 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 3a 3b and 5a, 5b under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), this part of your request is exempt by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 21(1) – Information Accessible to the Applicant by Other Means

In relation to part 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 3a 3b and 5a, 5b – All information captured by these questions is published by the Home Office via the following link (see data tables)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statistics-on-firearm-and-shotgun-certificates-england-and-wales-april-2020-to-march-2021>

Questions 6a and 6b - We do not temporarily revoke certificates.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Constabulary, when refusing to provide 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.

Exemptions applied:

Section 21(1) – Information Accessible to the Applicant by Other Means

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