



Max Colbert –
Via Email



Force Disclosure Unit
Wiltshire Police HQ
London Road
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN
Tel 101 ext. 62005
www.wiltshire.police.uk
disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

Date: 15th December 2021

Our ref: FOI 2021/970

Reply contact name is: Eleanor Gilmore

Dear Max

I write in connection with your request for information dated 19/11/2021 concerning expenditure on drone or unmanned technology.

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 able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

I'm writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) to ask that you please disclose the amount spent, since 2018, on drone technology for your constabulary. I'd also like the names of the providers given, and details of the limitations on how this technology can be used please.

Response

As a Police service Wiltshire police have spent in the region of £35,000 on drones. Wiltshire police use a company called Heliguy, as they are one of DJI's biggest UK supplier. Our UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) are used for –

**High risk missing people,
Outstanding suspects, Property,
Crime scene imagery,
Serious or Fatal collisions,
Public Order events, football matches, Demonstrations,
Large scale attended events, Summer/Winter Solstice/ Womad.**

Technical limitations have been considered for the final part of your query and details can be found using the following links:

The [Civil Aviation Authority \(CAA\) Regulations](#) state that drone operators must pass a national CAA accreditation qualification. Their website also publishes details about [airspace restrictions](#).

Drone makes and models used in an overt capacity by Wiltshire police have previously been disclosed: [foi-2021-630---drones.pdf \(wiltshire.police.uk\)](#)



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

As a result, drone make and model information shall be exempted from this response, please see below.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires 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 21 – Information accessible to the applicant by other means

In accordance with section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a partial 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

Eleanor Gilmore,
Force 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.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

Please note that the ICO's offices will be closed for the foreseeable future and are therefore unable to receive correspondence via post.

If you should wish you contact them, please visit <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>