



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: 24 November 2021

Our ref: FOI 2021/988

Reply contact name is

Dear

I write in connection with your request for information dated 24/11/2021 concerning spiking and theft/fraud.

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:

How many reports of alleged drink spiking that involve theft/fraud has your force had so far in 2021?

How many reports of alleged drink spiking that involve theft/fraud did your force have in 2020?

How many reports of alleged drink spiking that involve theft/fraud did your force have in 2019?

How many reports of alleged drink spiking that involve theft/fraud did your force have in 2018?

How many reports of alleged drink spiking that involve theft/fraud did your force have in 2017?

Response:

The information that you are requesting is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval. Whilst our crime recording system(s) are very sophisticated and we are able to search specific fields for particular data, we do not specifically store anywhere any flag or entry that designates that "spiking" has been involved in a given crime.

For us to obtain the information that you are requesting, we would be required to carry out a manual perusal of all reports that have been made. This is because there is no specific offence that is directly related to 'drink spiking' alone that can be easily searched on.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

For example, the offence 'Administering a substance with intent (S61, SOA 2003)' would be presumably the most likely offence you would think 'drink spiking' would fall under. However, dependent on the incident reported, an allegation of 'drink spiking' may fall under a different offence, such as Violence Against the Person, Theft and Sexual Offences although in reality they could potentially fall under any particular crime category.

Given that Wiltshire Police typically record something around 40,000 individual crimes in a typical calendar year, 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.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Wiltshire Police, 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. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice for those aspects of your request.

Exemptions applied:

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.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss the withheld information.

Yours sincerely

Force Disclosure Decision Maker

The Wiltshire Police offers a re-examination of your case under its review procedure



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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/>