



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: 20th December 2021

Your Ref: FOI

Our Ref: FOI 2021/993

Reply contact name is: Kay Moore

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 25th November 2021 concerning the number of Officers who are Advanced Drivers, Pursuit Trained, TPAC Trained and Stinger Trained.

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 after having consulted the Resource Management Unit – I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

- a) How many of your officers are Advanced Drivers?
- b) How many of your officers are Pursuit Trained/Authorised?
- c) How many of your officers are TPAC Trained/Authorised?
- d) How many of your officers are Stinger Trained/Authorised?

Our response:

- a) *How many of your officers are Advanced Drivers?*
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In relation to questions b – d, I have considered your request for information and I am not obliged to supply you with the requested information by virtue of –

Section 31(1)(a)(b) – Law Enforcement

Section 31 is a qualified prejudice-based exemption and therefore requires Wiltshire Police to establish the harm in disclosure, along with the public interest in favour for and against disclosure.

Overall Harm –

Disclosing the requested information in relation to questions b – d, could cause substantial harm for policing operations and all individuals involved, such as Police employees and the wider community. By disclosing this information, Wiltshire Police would prejudice our ability to prevent



and detect crime, and to apprehend and prosecute offenders; as information would be provided to the offenders in which they can then use this to evade detection, or even gaining access to our airwaves, therefore, negatively affecting the Force's ability to protect the community.

Factors Favouring Disclosure –

Disclosing this information into the public domain would ensure that the Force is being open and transparent with the public, allowing for the Force to be held accountable for its actions. Providing this information would ensure that the public is fully informed regarding training and where money from the public is being spent. This in turn may result in a reduction in crime and more information being supplied by the public, allowing the public to better protect themselves against crime.

Factors Against Disclosure –

Providing the number of Officers who are Pursuit, TPAC and Stinger trained would give criminals the ability to understand the operational capabilities of Wiltshire Police, and potentially other Police forces. This would seriously hinder the prevention and detection of crime, and compromise investigations. By providing these individuals with the knowledge to determine which areas are most vulnerable, they can use this information to plan criminal acts and avoid detection. If offenders avoid detection, this places the public at a greater risk and subsequently a diminishing trust in the Force and an increase of crime will be seen.

Balance Test –

Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency and openness between the Force and the public, along with demonstrating how the Force are engaging with the threat from criminals, there is a stronger interest in ensuring the public are protected from these individuals. The public also expect the Force to ensure the enforcement of the law, and the prevention and detection of crime, is upheld. Disclosing information that is likely to assist offenders would seriously undermine the effective delivery of operational law enforcement, and is therefore exempt from disclosure.

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.

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 31(1)(a)(b) Law Enforcement

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,

Kay Moore
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