



Force Disclosure Unit
Wiltshire Police HQ
London Road
Devizes
Wiltshire SN10 2DN
Telephone: 101
Extn 62005
e-mail
disclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Date 17 February 2022

Your ref

Our ref: FOI 2022/065

I write in connection with your request for information, dated 20th January concerning mobile fingerprint scanners, knife arches, and mobile phone data extraction.

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.

Following receipt of your request, research was conducted by the performance team department of Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

You wrote:

Mobile Fingerprint Scanners

1. The number of Mobile Fingerprint Scanners owned by your force in each year from 2015 to 2021 (inclusive).
2. The number of times Mobile Fingerprint Scanners were used by officers in your force in each year from 2015 to 2021.
3. The number of people who were scanned using mobile fingerprint scanners in each year from 2015 to 2021 (inclusive). If you record the data, please break this down by age, gender and ethnicity.
4. Please list the databases against which your Mobile Fingerprint Scanners check for matches and (if you hold the data) the number of matches against each database recorded in each year from 2015 to 2021 (inclusive).

Knife Arches

1. The number of (i) Knife Arches and (ii) Knife Wands owned by your force in each year from 2015 to 2021 (inclusive).
2. The number of times Knife Arches were used by officers in your force in each year from 2015 to 2021.
3. The number of people who were scanned using (i) Knife Arches and (ii) Knife Wands in each year from 2015 to 2021 (inclusive). If you record the data, please break this down by age, gender and ethnicity.
4. The number of offensive weapons discovered through the use of (i) Knife Arches and (ii) Knife Wands in each year from 2015 to 2021 (inclusive)



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Mobile Phone Data Extraction

1. The number of Mobile Phone Data Extraction devices owned by your force in each year from 2015 to 2021 (inclusive).
2. The number of times Mobile Phone Data Extraction devices were used by officers in your force in each year from 2015 to 2021.
3. The number of people whose phones were subject to Mobile Phone Data Extraction devices in each year from 2015 to 2021 (inclusive). If you record the data, please break this down by age, gender and ethnicity

Response:

The information that you are requesting for the majority of your request is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval. Wiltshire Police does have knife wands and arches but are only used in regards to specific Operations, or where the arch is requested specifically. The results of these would be held on our system, but the mention of the wand or arches are not mandatory fields, meaning that even if a knife was found, there is no guarantee that it will be associated with a wand or arch. Further issues arise in regards to break down of genders, as they are not always recorded when a new occurrence is made, especially if the person caught is already on the system. To accurately obtain all the above information, would require a manual search of all offensive weapon logs. Similar issues are in the mobile phone extraction, regarding gender break down.

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.

Under our section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, I recommend reducing the scope of your requests, and note that the 'use' of certain items are not regularly recorded.

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

Force Disclosure Decision Maker

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 Manager
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 Manager 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 Manager 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/>