

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.ukdisclosure@wiltshire.police.ukDate: 7th March 2022

Your Ref: FOI

Our Ref: FOI 2022/162

Reply contact name is: Kay Moore

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 15th February 2022 concerning those arrested for offences under the Football Offences Act 1991.

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 our Force Operations team – I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

I would like to have some information based on those people who have been arrested for offences under the Football (Offences) Act 1991.

Could also have some information on the amount of Swindon supporters who have been given banning orders from this season and from the 2019/20 season.

I would also like to have some information on the amount of Swindon supporters who have been arrested at for drunk and disorderly whilst attending football games.

Clarification received (16/02/22):

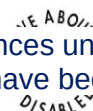
It was mainly the amount of Swindon supporters who have been arrested for offences conducted at football games. For example possession of Class A or drunk and disorderly.

Furthermore, I would like some information relating to the amount of Swindon fans who were arrested for offences committed under the Football (Offences) Act 1991.

Please can I have this information for the period of August 2019 to February 2020 and for the same period of August 2021 to February 2022.

Our response:

There have been no arrests made at Swindon Town home matches for offences under the Football Offences Act 1991 for the time frames requested. However, there have been arrests for



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

offences under the Public Order Act 1986 made at or in connection with football matches played at Swindon Town.

The Football Offences Act 1991 relates primarily to offences within football stadia, therefore, from your request, we get the impression that it is arrests for offences within the stadium that you are interested in. The main offences under the Football Offences Act 1991 include throwing missiles (s.2), Indecent or racist chanting (s.3) and Going onto the pitch or area adjacent to the pitch (s.4). Please bear in mind, that despite there appearing to be no arrests made under the Football Offences Act 1991 within the time frames requested; this does not necessarily mean that it doesn't happen.

Some of the Public Order arrests that we have made over the time frames requested have taken place inside the stadium but most of which have been made outside of the stadium. Please see below a table of all arrests made by Wiltshire Police for Public Order offences at Football games –

2019/20 (August to February):

Offence	Home
Violent Disorder (s.2 Public Order Act 1986)	5
Threatening Behaviour (s.4 Public Order Act 1986)	3
Abusive Language or Behaviour (s.5 Public Order Act 1986)	5

There were no arrests of Swindon supporters for being drunk and disorderly in this period.

Football Banning Orders (FBOs) – There were four FBOs imposed upon Swindon supporters following conviction for football-related offences (all outside of the stadium in Swindon).

2021/22 (August to February):

Offence	Home
Violent Disorder (s.2 Public Order Act 1986)	18
Abusive Language or Behaviour (s.5 Public Order Act 1986)	6

There were no arrests of Swindon supporters for being drunk and disorderly in this period.

The Violent Disorder (s.2) arrests noted above were all outside of the stadium, and 5 of the 6 arrests for Abusive Language or Behaviour (s.5) were inside the stadium.

Football Banning Orders – There have been no FBOs imposed on Swindon supporters by a Court in Wiltshire from this season so far.

Under our Section 16 duty to advise and assist where we can, I would suggest that you approach other Forces for this information because they may hold further information in relation to arrests made of Swindon supporters at away games as well as FBOs that may have been imposed on Swindon supporters by out-of-county Courts. This is because we are only able to inform you of arrests and FBOs that have taken place within our Force area. I would also suggest that you approach the Home Office to see if they would be able to offer you any further information.

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