

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.ukdisclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

XXXXXX – by E mail

Date: 26th October 2021

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2021 / 852

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 18th October 2021 concerning Covid breaches.

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 – having consulted our Force Operations and Business Performance Teams - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

I would like to request a list of all fines handed out by police for breaches of Covid regulations between March 23, 2020, and July 19, 2021.

For each case, could the following information be included:

- a) Date of breach
- b) Location of breach by local police unit/ neighbourhood policing team area
- c) Brief description of the breach
- d) Outcome, including value of fine where relevant

Our response:

Please refer to the attached pdf file which provides you with answers to the above 4 questions – this has been redacted as necessary to remove reference to and 3rd party information which could identify individuals.

Under our Section 16 obligation to be as helpful as possible to an applicant, please note the following points which clarify the process involved in the issue and processing of fines etc related to covid-breaches and about the data provided to you :-



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Please note

The process involved in respect of Covid breaches is as follows :-

- a) Breach is identified by Officer directly or from a report submitted either from a member of the public or Border Force etc.
- b) Notice is issued to offender and ACRO is notified of each breach
- c) ACRO issue ticket and request for payment to the offender
- d) Offender pays fine directly to ACRO
- e) If an offender contests the fine or refuses to pay, then ACRO revert the ticket to the local Force
- f) The local Force then conducts a review undertaken by an Evidence Review Officer and the decision is then made to either cancel the ticket with no further action (NFA), to uphold the ticket (and proceed to prosecute via The Court) or to cancel / rescind the ticket.
- g) If the case then proceeds to Court, local Forces then get advised of the Court Decision

With regards to the information shown on the attached pdf file :-

- For the time period you have stipulated there have been 888 covid breaches identified by Wiltshire Police that have lead to tickets and fines being issued.
- It needs to be noted that a number of these tickets are still active :-
 - a) either with ACRO and awaiting payment/processing
 - b) having been returned from ACRO for ERO review and still going through that process
 - c) currently going through the Court process
- When tickets are rescinded it is done at the earliest possible time and generally happens for one of the following 3 reasons :-
 - a) There was a procedural error associated with the issue of a ticket
 - b) The issue of a ticket was deemed not proportionate or grossly disproportionate
 - c) There are legal issues
- If there is nothing showing within columns 5-10 on the attached pdf file, we would presume that the fines have been paid by the offender. To get clarification of this you would need to approach ACRO directly as they are the Authority holding this information.
- If a ticket is shown as having been returned to Force but there is nothing showing under ERO NFA or ERO Prosecution, review of that ticket is still in process.
- If a ticket is shown as ERO – Prosecution but there is nothing showing in terms of Court Decision / Fine it is because we have yet to be notified of the Court result or the case has still to be heard.

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,

Nick Penny
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.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 Unit 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 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