

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

[www.wiltshire.police.uk](http://www.wiltshire.police.uk)[disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk](mailto:disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk)Date: 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Your Ref: FOI

Our Ref: FOI 2022/254

Reply contact name is: Kay Moore

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022 concerning mobile fingerprint technology.

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:**

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act for information regarding your force's use of mobile fingerprint technology.

Please provide the following information about your force's use of mobile biometric technology for the periods between April 2020 and the end of December 2021; if you do not hold this information for the whole length of the period stated above, please provide it for the period starting from the date you began recording the information:

1. The number of times the mobile biometrics devices were used.
2. The following information about each search: which database was searched (Police [IDENT1] or Immigration [IABS]) or both), date, reason for fingerprinting, officer defined ethnicity, self defined ethnicity, gender of the person scanned, age of person scanned, PNC search location, response (i.e. whether the search returned a record. If so, please specify which database the record was returned from).
3. How many times was Command & Control contacted following a search.
4. The location of where the initial Stop and Scan was done (e.g. street, neighborhood, city, patch), however your force records this.
5. If your force does not currently use mobile biometric scanners, please state if there are plans to adopt the use of the devices, and if yes on what date.

**Our response:**

The information you have requested (namely questions 2 and 3) is not stored in a manner that allows for easy retrieval. In order to ascertain the information requested for these questions, we



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

would need to manually peruse through all Officer's pocket notebooks and occurrence logs which relate to an incident where mobile biometric technology may have been used. This is in order to firstly identify whether all of the requested information is held and if it is held, then to extract the necessary data manually as unfortunately this is not automatically recorded by the device itself and therefore, is not stored centrally in a location that permits for easy extraction. As a result, this request would take us well over the allocated time frame we have to complete your request within and is therefore, exempt from disclosure.

However, as a gesture of goodwill – our ICT department have provided the following information to assist you with your request:

***At present, Wiltshire Police are currently deploying new mobile operational software that will enable biometric scanning. This software is still embryonic in terms of implementation and devices/software are currently in testing/pilot phase. Historically, Wiltshire Police have used biometrics.***

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.

Please note, that if one part of the request engages a Section 12 response, the whole request will engage a Section 12 response. The reason being is due to the fact that locating, retrieving and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations.

Ordinarily under our section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you how to refine your request in respect of questions 2 and 3, to a more manageable level. However, due to the difficulties outlined above, I cannot see how this can be achieved in this particular case.

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,

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](mailto: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](mailto:mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk)