



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: 12/04/2022

Your ref:

Our ref: FOI 2022/259

Reply contact name is **Francesca Smith**

I write in connection with your request for information, dated 20/3/2022, concerning postal requisitions.

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, searches were conducted with Business Intelligence Unit of Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and it is not possible to meet your requirements in full.

You wrote:

Have any people been charged with serious violence offences and/or terror offences by post instead of in person – ie issued with postal requisition charges (PCRs) -- in each of the following calendar years: 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021?

By serious violence offences, please specify details for the following:

- **Murder**
- **Manslaughter**
- **Rape**
- **Sexual offences including attempted rape**
- **Assault with injury involving a weapon or bladed article**
- **Possession of a firearm**
- **Terror offences**

If any people charged with the offences listed above have been charged by post, please provide the number, for each offence, per each of the above calendar years.

Response:



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Please see the below table detailing the information we are able to provide:

	Death Or Serious Injury Caused By Illegal Driving	Homicide	Rape	Violence With Injury involving a weapon	Possession Of Weapons (Firearm)
Reported Year	1: Summoned/postal requisition	1: Summoned/post al requisition	1: Summoned/postal requisition	1: Summoned/postal requisition	1: Summoned/postal requisition
2017	5	1	12	4	1
2018	6		9	17	4
2019	9		14	26	6
2020	6		12	8	4
2021			2	2	1

Wiltshire Police is neither able to confirm nor deny it holds any information in relation to postal requisitions for terrorism offences. This information is exempt by virtue of s24(2) and 31(3).

Section 24 and Section 31 are both prejudice-based, qualified exemptions. These exemptions require Wiltshire Police to establish the harm in disclosure, and the public interest for and against disclosure.

Evidence of Harm

Every effort should be made to release information under Freedom of Information. However an FOIA response is considered to be a release to the world as once the information is published the public authority have no control over what use is made of that information.

Those with the necessary criminal intent, inclination and capacity could use the information to gain an operational advantage over the Force as the information can indeed be viewed as operationally sensitive. To confirm or deny whether or not a Force has sent out any postal requisitions relating to terrorism offences would have a negative effect on the operational capability of the Force should the release of information, if held, be used and manipulated by those who are intent on carrying out criminal/terrorist activities. To disclose the information, if held, would therefore provide them with an opportunity to disrupt police activity.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring confirmation or denial – Confirming or denying any further information is held that confirms whether a Force has issued postal requisitions for terrorism offences, the public would see the efforts and results of counter terrorism work conducted by the Force.

Factors against confirmation or denial - The public interest is not what interests the public but what will be of greater good if released to the community as a whole. It is not in the public interest to disclose any information, if held, that may compromise the Force's ability to accomplish its core functions of law enforcement.

By confirming or denying whether information is held that confirms the Force has sent out postal requisitions for terrorism offences, when partnered with other information from other forces, may lead to law enforcement tactics being compromised which would ultimately hinder the prevention and detection of terrorism. Criminals would be able to find out which Forces appear to be sending out more requisitions and this would enable them to develop tactics as to where to target.

Balance Test

The security of the country is of paramount importance and the Police service will not divulge whether any information is or is not held if to do so would undermine law enforcement and therefore compromise the work of the Police Service. Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing and any work carried out to prevent or detect terrorism, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding capacity and detection information in relation to Forces UK wide.

The strongest reason to confirm or deny whether any information is held, is that it is recognised that there is a genuine public interest in information relating to the prevention and detection of terrorism . The strongest reasons against confirmation or denial of any information being held, is to ensure that security measures are not rendered less effective through disclosure, therefore hindering the effective delivery of operational law enforcement.

Therefore, for these issues the balancing test for confirming or denying whether any further information is held, is not made out.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Wiltshire Police, 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.

Exemption applied:

Section 24(2) – National Security
Section 31(3) – Law Enforcement

Wiltshire Police would like to thank you for the interest that you have shown in the Force.

Yours sincerely
Francesca Smith

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

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/>