



XXXXXXXXXX
By email



Force Disclosure Unit
Wiltshire Police HQ
London Road
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN
Tel 101 ext. 62005
Website: www.wiltshire.police.uk
Email: disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

Date: 20th April 2022

Our ref: FOI 2022/345

Reply contact name is: Abigail Standidge

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 13th April 2022, concerning wildlife crimes.

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 Rural Crime Team at Wiltshire Police. Your request for information has now been considered and I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

You wrote:

I would like the details of any arrests and/or seizures made in relation to wildlife crimes. In particular, I'm looking for cases related to poaching, egg poaching, smuggling from overseas/illegal wildlife trade, non-registration of birds and animals that require licensing, and illegal hunting.

If it's helpful to be even more specific (I am unsure how many cases there may be), poaching, hunting and trade are my top three priorities.

I'd like to see the details of incidents from 2018 onwards. Again, if it's helpful to specify more, I'm happy to limit the search to 2019 onwards.

I'd like as much information as is possible to be provided with, however I appreciate there are limits with regards to what I can know. The list below outlines the information I'm looking for (in an ideal world!):

- Name of person arrested (if not possible, age and gender would be helpful)
- location of arrest or seizure
- date of arrest or seizure
- details of any items seized
- reason for arrest or seizure
- whether charges were brought
- any other details relevant to the case (e.g. if a smuggler, where the items have come from)

I would like this for crimes that fit the following criteria:

- Took place after 2018
- Relate to wildlife crimes (e.g. illegal poaching, egg poaching, illegal wildlife trade/importation, illegal hunting, keeping species that need licensing without the proper registrations)



Our response:

Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) requires Wiltshire Police to confirm or deny whether the requested information is held. To establish whether the information is held would, in itself, exceed the time obligations placed upon the authority to comply (approx. 18 hours).

The information you are requesting is in relation to Summary Offences. These types of offences do not have a specific crime classification and are all recorded under an umbrella classification of 'NZ - other incident non crime'. Retrieving the requested data would require manually reviewing every NZ incident to determine if the incident was relevant to this request and, if so, extract the relevant information needed to provide a response. A manual review of thousands of records would be required to determine whether the information is held, and therefore engages section 12(2).

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. Therefore the whole of the request should fall under the exemption of section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please also 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 obligation to provide advice and assistance we would advise you of a way to refine your request to a more manageable level. Due to the difficulties in obtaining the requested information, as outlined above, I cannot think of a way in which this could be achieved.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires 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.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss the withheld information.

Yours sincerely

Abigail Standidge
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 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

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 to contact them, please visit <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>