



Force Disclosure Unit

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.uk

disclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Martin Parker martin.parker@basc.org.uk

Date: 6th April 2022

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2022 / 234

Reply contact name is: Kerry Merritt

Dear Martin,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 10th March 2022 concerning Firearms Licensing Department.

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 Firearms & Explosives Licensing Manager I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote/Our response:

Unless stated otherwise, all questions relate to the current position as of 1st March 2022

1. How many staff work in the force's FLD (Full time equivalent)? **11**
2. How many of these are police officers? **None**
3. Are any other staff involved in work for the department (e.g. PCSOs doing enquiries or PNC staff doing background checks)? If so, how many and what are their roles? **No**
4. What training is provided to FEOs and by whom? **All FEOs have successfully completed the Chartered Management Institute's National Police Firearms Licensing Enquiry Officers Course by a company called Mowbray Partners and recommended by the College of Policing.**
5. Who holds the delegated authority of the chief officer under section 55 Firearms Act 1968 to grant/renew/refuse/revoke? How many staff have this delegated authority?

Superintendent (Head of Department) – Authority for all Grants/renewals/refusals/revocations

FAL Manager – Authority for all grants & renewals

FAL Supervisor – Authority for all grants & renewals

FLO x 4 – Authority for all non-contentious grants & renewals



6. What is the budget for the department? **£167,847**

7. Is the budget ring-fenced? **No**

8. Is FLD as stand alone department, or part of another business area? **Part of Crime Standards & Justice**

9. How many certificates have been extended under section 28B in last 12 months? **1**

10. How many Section 7 permits have been issued in the last 12 months due to expired certificates? **2**

11. Is the force currently accepting grant applications? **Yes**

12. What is the turnaround time for a grant? (Currently and a year ago) **Currently – 8 months. A year ago – 4 months**

13. When is an application first recorded on NFLMS? As soon as received? Once all enquiries have been completed? At some other stage in the process (please specify)? **The day received**

14. Are certificates ever issued on NFLMS prior to conducting statutory enquiries? **S84 of FOIA relates to recorded information held by a public authority and that it does not extend to providing explanations unless the answers are already held in a recorded form.**

The possession of firearms and ammunition in Great Britain is regulated mainly by the Firearms Act 1968. The Home Office guide on Firearms Licensing Law and Statutory guidance for Chief Officers of Police are published on the gov.uk website. Please see below link.

[Firearms licensing - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

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,

Kerry Merritt
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 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