

**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: 30th May 2022

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2022 / 463

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 26th May 2022 concerning Road Rage and Aggressive Driving.

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 Business Performance and Justice Traffic Teams - I am not able to respond to you in full.

You wrote:

For the calendar years 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 – could you please respond with:

1. The number of reported crimes which mentioned “road rage” in the MO field of the crime report and the detailed crime type
2. A brief summary of each reported crime listed in your answer to question 1
3. The number of road traffic accidents recorded with a contributing factor of “aggressive driving” (code 601)
4. If it is within the time/cost limit of the FOI Act, a brief summary of the incidents listed in your answer to question 3
5. Please also specify for 1) and 3) the number of “cyclists”, “horse riders” and “pedestrians” involved in reports of road rage and aggressive driving



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Our response:

The information that you have asked for in Question 5 of your request is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.

For the time period you mention we have recorded more than 800 traffic-related incidents that have involved either cyclists, horse riders or pedestrians. We do not have capability on our systems however to record which of these were effectively "Road Rage" incidents.

The only way to identify those that met your criteria here, would be to access and read each and every incident log for each of these incidents and make a note of those that were related to "Road Rage".

Even allowing a very generous 5 minutes per record, 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.

Although excess cost removes the forces' obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request. What I am able to provide you are the answers documented below :-

Question 1

For the time period you require there have been 213 crimes reported to Wiltshire Police where the term "road rage" has been mentioned in the summary description of the crime – please see the data on the attached excel spreadsheet.

It needs to be noted that we are only able to search the abbreviated summary description of the offence rather than the whole crime log (which runs to many pages). As a consequence if the term "road rage" is used in the crime log but not the abbreviated summary of the offence, then it will not be returned in any searches.

It also needs to be noted that you have specifically asked for a wildcard or keyword search to be undertaken for the term "road rage" – if this has been spelt incorrectly or an offence has not specifically been described as a "road rage" incident, then again, it will not be returned in any searches undertaken.

Question 2

Please refer to the attached excel spreadsheet for the summary descriptions of each of these 213 crimes. Note – information within this has been redacted to remove any references to 3rd party information to which you are not entitled and which would otherwise be exempt under S40 of the Act (Personal Information).

Question 3

None

Question 4

Not applicable by virtue of our response to Q3.

Question 5

With respect to the 213 crimes recorded that mention the words “road rage”, the following words are also mentioned in the summary description of the offence :-

Cyclists	6
Horse riders	0
Pedestrians	0

Ordinarily under our section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you how to refine your request in respect of questions 3,5,6,9,10 and 11 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,

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 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