

**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: 7th June 2022

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2022 / 432

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 16th May 2022 concerning Strip Searches.

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 Custody Department - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

Please can I have a racial breakdown (black, Asian, Chinese, mixed ethnicity) of the use of strip searches conducted in the following years

1. 2017-2018
2. 2018-2019
3. 2019-2020
4. 2020-2021
5. 2021-2022 (so far)

Our response:

Please note, we only collect information around strip searches by calendar year, not by fiscal year. There is no obligation on an Authority to create data (eg results per fiscal year) where it does not currently exist, solely to answer an FOI request.

In addition, we do not record strip searches that are undertaken by Ethnic group, we only record it by "White" or "BAME".



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Therefore, in respect of data regarding specific Ethnicity, our formal response is – **No Information Held.**

What we are able to provide you is contained in the table below.

Unfortunately, we do not hold any data for 2017 because this information was collected by another Officer who subsequently left the organisation. What information we do hold is only a small fraction of information for that year and we would not wish to publish this as it does not warrant inclusion – certainly from the perspective of comparative purposes as it would be meaningless.

As you have asked for 5 years worth of fiscal data, I have however provided information back as far as 2016 so that you have as much information as possible for comparative purposes.

Information for 2022 to date is up to and including 18th May 2022, which is as far as this year's figures have been analysed to.

The table below shows a breakdown of the strip searches carried out since 2016, split between White and BAME :-

Year	White	BAME	Total
2016	455	124	579
2017	No data available	No data available	No data available
2018	476	129	605
2019	455	156	611
2020	365	125	490
2021	320	70	390
2022 to date	106	22	128

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