



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

Date: 27th July 2022

Our ref: FOI 2022/ 572

I write in connection with your request for information dated 18th July concerning firearm licensing.

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 professional standards team, I am happy to supply the information you have requested.

You wrote:

- 1) How many new fire arms licence grant applications Wiltshire Police have received since the start of the first COVID lock down on 26th March 2020 and today the 15th July 2022?
- 2) How many fire arms licence renewal applications Wiltshire Police have received since the start of the first COVID lock down on 26th March 2020 and today the 15th July 2022?
- 2) How many of each of the above categories of application have been processed since 26th March 2020 and today the 15th July 2022?
- 3) What measures have been introduced to clear the backlog of grant applications which I am told as of 15th July 2022 currently stands at 9 months.
- 4) If the answer to (3) above is no measures have been introduced, how was it assessed that additional measures are deemed unnecessary.



Response

1. Total = 1,714 (this includes all firearm, shotgun and coterminous shotgun grant applications)
2. Total = 8,000 (this includes all firearm, shotgun and coterminous shotgun renewal applications)
3. Grant applications processed = 1,104
Renewal applications processed = 7,546
4. The Executive Leadership Team (ELT) have recently authorised the recruitment of two more, full time, Firearm Enquiry Officers (FEOs) to assist with clearing the backlog of grant applications in particular. (The recruitment process is already underway. These new posts are permanent contracts so once the backlog has been cleared the new FEOs will remain in post.)
5. N/A.

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,

Force Disclosure Decision Maker



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

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/>