

**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: 28th July 2022

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2022 / 577

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 16th July 2022 concerning Tasers.

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 Armed Response Group - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

I request specific information regarding workforce data in your police force area. This information is sought under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000).

For each year ending 31 March between 2009 and 2020 in your police force area:

1. What was the total number of officers equipped with a Taser?
2. What was the total number of Tasers allocated to your force?

Our response:

Wiltshire Police do not hold records which provide answers to either of the two questions which you ask above – our response is therefore - **No Information Held.**

However under our Section 16 obligation to be as helpful as possible to an applicant, I can provide you with the following information to clarify the above response and provide you with a degree of detail as to our current position regarding Tasers :-



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

- Once an officer is Taser-trained he is not automatically issued with a Taser as a piece of standard equipment which remains with him. All Tasers held by Wiltshire Police are allocated out to HQ or each of the relevant CPT (Community Policing Team) locations where they are effectively held “in stock”. When a Taser-trained officer comes on shift they will equip themselves with a Taser from the available stock which will stay with them for the duration of their shift before – once again – being returned back to stock.
- Wiltshire Police do keep an officer's training records held on a database but it is up to each individual officer to maintain their own record. Such housekeeping has – over the years – proved remarkably difficult to maintain and almost impossible to enforce. As a consequence, it is not possible to provide accurate figures for the number of officers that have been Taser-trained (or hold Taser certification) for any given year – we cannot rely on the training records held in the database and would never put information into the public domain via an FOI response where we were not completely sure that the information is accurate.
- Our Armed Response Team keep a database record of all Tasers currently held by Wiltshire Police but this is only in the form of a “running total”. We do not record, nor is it possible to calculate exactly how many Tasers were actually allocated to our Force at any given calendar point.
- As of today, Wiltshire Police currently hold 226 Tasers and have 326 Officers having the requisite training and certification to use them.

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 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