

**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 email

Date: 30th August 2022

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2022 / 691

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 26th August 2022 concerning Luxury Watch Crimes.

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 I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

You wrote:

Could I please request info on crimes involving and associated with watches worth more than £5,000 so far this year, and over the last 3 calendar years, with the information broken down according to year. Or clarity, what I mean by involving and associated with, is crimes that happened at the same time – for example theft and abh if a person was assaulted while their watch was being stolen.

If possible within the time limit, I would like to know the kinds of crimes and details of any that led to successful prosecution of five years or more.

Ie, 2019, 15 robbery, 12 abh – John Smith jailed for six years for robbery and gbh, Heather Jones jailed or 5 years for 12 counts of robbery.

Our response:

The information that you are requesting for the majority of your request is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Whilst our crime recording system(s) are quite sophisticated, we do not record in any searchable field the type of item that is reported stolen or indeed it's value.

All crimes are reported under a strict system of Home Office Crime Reporting Codes and thefts of this nature could be recorded under any of the following crime categories :-

- All Other Thefts
- Theft from a Person
- Burglary (both Domestic and Business)
- Robbery

Should the theft of a watch be only part of a more serious offence such as an Assault, Rape or so on, then – under Crime Recording Rules – it is only the principal more serious offence which is recorded as a crime, although the suspect can also ultimately be charged for the lesser offence as well.

The only way to ascertain the information you require would be to physically read virtually ever crime log recorded on our systems for the time period you require to determine whether the theft of a watch was involved or not.

In many cases, the value of any stolen watch will not necessarily have been recorded within the crime log and would necessitate us reviewing additional documents such as victim statements and/or copies of insurance documentation and so on to try and ascertain the information you require.

Given that since 1st January 2020, Wiltshire Police have recorded more than 14,000 individual crimes simply under the above 4 crime categories alone (and excluding all other more serious offences such as assaults, rapes, etc), 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.

It also needs to be noted that there is no obligation on an Authority to create information where none currently exists simply to answer an FOI request.

Ordinarily under our section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you how to refine your request 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