

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ
London Road
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

www.wiltshire.police.uk
disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

Date: 20th October 2022

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2022 / 736

Dear ***,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 17th September 2022 concerning Force Policy on Possession of Cannabis and Members of the Public who possess a Cancard™.

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 Force Policy Officer and our Business Intelligence Unit I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote/ Our response:

1. Please can you make disclosure of any force policies, procedures and/or guidance documents which refer to and/or detail the forces position in relation to dealing with members of the public who are found to be in possession of cannabis for personal use (including where the person believes in its assistance in alleviating medical conditions).

No Information Held - We do not have any policy or procedure.

2. Please can you confirm the forces policy in relation to any member of the public who presents with a Cancard™ upon being questioned, detained and/or arrested for offences relating to the possession of cannabis for personal use (including where the person believes in its assistance in alleviating medical conditions).

No Information Held - We do not have a policy covering possession of a Cancard.

3. Please can you confirm the number of people a) arrested and b) convicted in accordance with s.5(1) of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 within your force area for the Year ending March 2022 and September 2014.

For clarity, I can confirm that Cancard™ is a medical ID card, recognised by the police. It is a validated indication to any third-party that someone is consuming cannabis for medical reasons.



Clarification sought from applicant:

I am only seeking disclosure relating to cannabis.

ArrestFiscalYear	Arrests
2021-2022	320
ArrestFiscalYear	Charged
2021-2022	71

ArrestFiscalYear	Arrests
Sep-14	31
ArrestFiscalYear	Charged
Sep-14	0

I am satisfied that all the relevant information has been passed to me and been considered in the light of your request and I apologise for the delay in answering your request.

Wiltshire Police would like to thank you for the interest that you have shown in the Force.

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Decision Maker

Wiltshire Police offers a re-examination of your case under its review procedure.



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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.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