

**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: 11th January 2023

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2022 / 996

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 16th December 2022 concerning Crypto-related crime.

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 DIU (Digital Investigations & Intelligence Unit) and Finance Teams - I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

You wrote :

On 25 October 2022, NPCC Cybercrime Programme Lead Andrew Gould said in a parliamentary sitting that “about £100m” has been invested over the past four years building up the UK’s police forces ability to seize crypto, creating crypto tactical advisers across every police force, and procuring investigative tools to support crypto seizure.

Please could you provide the following:

- 1) A breakdown of how much your police force has spent on targeting crypto-related crime, and a breakdown of what this was spent on, since 1 January 2018
- 2) A breakdown of the procured investigative tools your police force has acquired to target crypto-related crime, and the costs of these tools, since 1 January 2018
- 3) A list of how many sourced, recruited, or trained crypto tactical advisers your police force has received since 1 January 2018



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Our Response

The information that you are requesting for Q1 of your request is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.

Investigations related to crypto crime are undertaken by Wiltshire Police's Digital Investigations & Intelligence Unit. This however comprises only a portion of the work that the DIU Team undertake.

Whilst we hold information regarding the running costs of the DIU Team as a whole, this is not broken down into a proportion of the costs associated with work related solely on crypto-related crime.

Similarly, whilst investigations into crypto-related crime are generally led by the DIU, officers from other areas can and do invariably get involved at various stages investigations, doing research, reports, undertaking interviews and so on. Within Wiltshire Police we do not record the individual costs that are associated with any specific recorded crime as the individuals, Teams and time is simply too difficult to record effectively.

With respect to specific training costs, Wiltshire Police have not spent anything to date in respect of specific Crypto training. The various courses that the DIU Team have undertaken have all been procured nationally for Police Forces by ROCU with NPCC funding and, as such, have not been at any cost to individual Forces.

To obtain the information you require, it would be necessary to examine not only the work undertaken by members of the DIU since 2018, but also to review – and try to cost – all investigations undertaken into crypto-related offences recorded on our systems since that time. We would also need to liaise with our Finance Team and try to identify all specific invoices and charges incurred over the last 4 years in respect of the procurement of the DIU Team and to determine what proportion were relevant to targeting crypto-related crime.

Under the circumstances, 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.

Please also note that if one part of the request engages a Section 12 response, the whole request will engage a Section 12 response. The reason being is due to the fact that locating, retrieving and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations.

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.



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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