

**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: 5th January 2023

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2023 / 014

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 3rd January 2023 concerning Shoplifting in Supermarkets.

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 Business Performance Team - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

I'd like to request data on the number of shoplifting reports made in the force area in 2021 and 2022, specifically pertaining to supermarkets and essential shops.

Please can you provide figures for shoplifting reports where the logs mention any of the following: Asda; Tesco; Sainsbury's; Morrisons; Aldi; Lidl; Co-op; Marks & Spencer / M&S; Waitrose.

Can you please provide these figures for both the 2021 and 2022 calendar years.

Our response:

Please refer to the following table which summarises the Shoplifting reports that Wiltshire Police have received in 2021 and 2022 for the Supermarkets named above.

We do not have the capability in our crime recording system(s) to undertake searches on the whole occurrence log of a crime report, only the abbreviated summary description that may not even include the name of the Supermarket concerned.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

In order to provide you with information, we have – instead – run the specific “wildcard” / free-text search you require against the occurrence address for the crime report. This will provide you with the best chance of obtaining sensible results.

	Shopliftings		
Supermarket	2021	2022	Total
Aldi	3	2	5
Asda	5	2	7
Lidl	0	7	7
M&S	5	3	8
Morrisons	4	1	5
Sainsbury	9	15	24
Tesco	9	15	24
Waitrose	2	0	2
Grand Total	37	45	82

Please Note

It needs to be remembered that the use of “wildcard” or free-text searches are limited for an number of reasons such as – but not limited to – the following :-

- a) The specific key words being sought need to physically appear in the field being searched (eg if the address of an Asda Supermarket was recorded but it did not include the specific word “Asda”, then it would not be featured in any results generated)
- b) Wildcard or free-text searches are reliant on the specific keyword being spelt grammatically correctly in that field (eg if the crime recorder mis-spelt Tesco as “Tessco”, again it would not feature in any results generated)
- c) There are other Supermarket chains such as One Stop, MacColls, and so on which you have not requested to be included as part of your search – you will need to take this into account when considering the volume of Shoplifting offences recorded above.

The only other way of finding the information you require would be to review manually each and every Shoplifting record individually and determine whether or not it occurred at one of the Supermarkets you mention.

Given that Wiltshire Police have recorded in excess of 5,600 individual Shoplifting crimes during this 2 year period, undertaking this task manually would undoubtedly invoke a Section 12 (Time Cost) exemption in respect of this request and nothing would be able to be disclosed to you.

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