



Via email



Force Disclosure Unit

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

www.wiltshire.police.uk

disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

Date: 19/01/2023

Our ref: FOI 2023/019

Reply contact name is:

Dear

I write in connection with your request for information dated 05/01/2023 concerning E-Scooters being ridden illegally and operations targeting them.

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.

Following receipt of your request, research was conducted by the roads policing unit at Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and I am able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

How do you deal with people riding e-scooters illegally and do you have any specific operations targeting them?

Response

Police have the power to seize the e-scooters and report the riders to court as they are currently illegal to use on public roads. Advice on legal use of e-scooters and penalties and offences can be found here:

[Advice on e-scooter usage | Wiltshire Police](#)

In relation to specific operations, Wiltshire police can neither confirm nor deny that any are taking place or due to take place. (Please see below for the following exemption being applied to this request)



Section 30/31 – Investigations/Law Enforcement

Factors favouring complying with Section 1(1)(a) confirming that any other information is held

Complying with Section 1(1)(a) would enhance the public's knowledge about where operational activity is located and would offer greater transparency on the subject matter. It would re-enforce confidence in Wiltshire police to investigate crimes and incidents reported to us.

Additionally, the public has a right to know that Wiltshire Police focuses its attention and responsibility to ensuring illegal activity involving e-scooters is appropriately investigated.

Factors against complying with Section 1(1)(a) neither confirming nor denying that information is held

Disclosing this information would provide the world, not just the requester, with sensitive information about operations related to e-scooters, which could be mis-used by anyone with access to this information.

This could place Wiltshire Police's law enforcement capabilities into jeopardy and could run the risk of causing endangerment to the community that Wiltshire Police are empowered to protect. This would give offenders the ability to use this information for unlawful purposes – for instance using e-scooters in the commission of crimes and offences. This could seriously hinder the prevention and detection of crime. By providing these individuals with this knowledge it is possible that they can use this information to plan criminal acts and avoid detection. If offenders avoid detection, this places the public at a greater risk and subsequently a diminishing trust in the Force and an increase of crime will be seen.

To disclose this information into the public domain would highlight that Wiltshire Police does not take the security and integrity of law enforcement seriously and suggest that they are not concerned with keeping the public safe, both of which would cause a significant drop in public confidence.

Balancing Test

Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency and openness between the Force and the public, along with demonstrating how the Force are engaging with local issues, offences and offenders, there is a stronger interest in ensuring the public are protected from these individuals. The above points highlight both the merits and issues with disclosing the information you have requested.

Overall, the police service is charged with enforcing the law, preventing, and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. It is because of this, Wiltshire Police will not divulge any information if to do so would prejudice our law enforcement capabilities and in turn lead to more victims of crime, more offenders not being brought to justice, or to put our community at risk of further harm. The public interest is very largely in favour of non-disclosure, to ensure the capability of law enforcement by Wiltshire Police and to keep the public safe. This would only be overridden in exceptional circumstances, which this Freedom of Information request is not. To reveal information which could highlight the operational activity would not be in the public interest.

No inference can be drawn from this response as to the existence or not of any other information.

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

Force 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.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

Please note that the ICO's offices will be closed for the foreseeable future and are therefore unable to receive correspondence via post.

If you should wish you contact them, please visit <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>