



Force Disclosure Unit
Police Headquarters
London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: 6th January 2023

Ref: FOI 2022/704

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 1st September concerning shoplifting offences. My sincerest apologies for the delay.

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:

Please can you provide the following information, for the period of April 1 to August 31 in 2022, 2021 and 2019

- The total number of shoplifting offences logged by the force
- Of those, the number of shoplifting offences that were listed as occurring at a supermarket, or mentioned Tesco, ASDA, Sainsbury's, Aldi, Lidl, Morrison's, Iceland, Waitrose or Marks and Spencer
- The number of shoplifting offences that led to an arrest
- The number of shoplifting offences that led to a charge or summons
- The number of shoplifting offences that led to no further action being taken

Our response:

The information that you are requesting (namely question 2) is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval. This is because when recording a shoplifting report, there is no mandatory field or similar we need to populate in which states what supermarket a shoplifting offence may have taken place at. Consequently, to retrieve the information requested or to establish whether it has even been recorded would require a manual search of all crime reports and call logs relating to each shoplifting offence for the time frames requested, in order to see if these reports may detail which supermarket (if any) a shoplifting offence may have taken place at.

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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 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.

Although excess cost removes the forces' obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request. What I am able to provide you are the answers documented below –

Reported Month and Year	Shoplifting Crimes	Arrests	Charged / Summonsed	No Further Action
Apr-2019	349	63	68	223
May-2019	434	67	86	291
Jun-2019	329	54	55	230
Jul-2019	453	73	89	297
Aug-2019	414	57	62	306
Apr-2021	214	34	33	162
May-2021	229	28	21	190
Jun-2021	225	35	30	179
Jul-2021	183	22	22	143
Aug-2021	204	27	31	159
Apr-2022	228	36	27	172
May-2022	288	36	31	229
Jun-2022	235	33	27	172
Jul-2022	286	31	37	176
Aug-2022	267	45	39	128

Ordinarily under our Section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you how to refine your request in respect of question 2 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

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(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,

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

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.

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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