



Force Disclosure Unit
Wiltshire Police HQ
London Road
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN
Tel 101 ext 62005
www.wiltshire.police.uk
disclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

XXXXXX – by E Mail

Date: 31st January 2023

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2023 / 077

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 16th January 2023 concerning Accidents at Ashley Crossroads on A363 nr Bradford-on-Avon.

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 Justice Traffic & Business Performance Teams - I am not able to respond to you in full.

You wrote:

Please could I make a request for:

Traffic accidents in the past 20 years (or less if that is not possible)

Number, type, severity and cause

Ashley Crossroads on the A363, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire (nearest postcode BA15 2PG)

Approximate grid refs ST 81553 62948 to ST 81824 62669

Our response

The information that you are requesting in respect of part of your request (namely the information in respect of non-injury RTA's / RTC's) is held in part, but not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.

Information in respect of Injury RTA's / RTC's is stored on an individual database used by our Justice Traffic Team. Due to the importance of these incidents – where physical injury has occurred – the data recorded is accurate and explicit by virtue of the fact that full investigations need to be undertaken in respect of these

incidents – to determine if crimes have taken place, to support any personal injury claims and so on. We are able to search this database effectively by grid reference and respective roadside markers and I have provided this information to you below.

However, information in respect of non-injury RTA's and RTC's is stored on our main crime and incident recording systems Niche and Storm.

Both Niche and Storm are essentially crime and incident recording databases and neither are particularly designed to facilitate detailed searches being undertaken on them to locate specific information.

Whilst these two systems have a number of designated fields in which data can be held and searched upon, those fields are both limited and – in a lot of instances – not mandatory. As a consequence, key searchable fields are often left blank or contain incorrect information – meaning searches are not always accurate.

For instance, we do not hold grid references or roadside marker information in either of these systems so cannot easily locate incidents that occur at a given location or postcode as we do for Injury collisions.

The only conceivable way to try and locate the non-injury RTA's / RTC's at the location you require, would be for us to run a wildcard or free-text search for keywords such as "Cumberwell", "Ashley", "A363", "BA15 2PG", "B3105" and so on to try locate incidents reported at the area you have requested and then manually review each and every incident in order to determine whether it met your criteria or not and list the details around it.

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

The use of wildcard or free-text searches are not a method that is advocated at Wiltshire Police, due to a number of reasons such as (but not limited to) the following :-

- a) Searches are reliant on specific words being included in the field being searched
- b) Those keywords need to be spelt grammatically correctly (eg something listed as "Cumbwell" would not be returned on any searches)

Even using wildcards or free-text searches would not ensure that accurate results are returned in any queries we ran and Wiltshire Police would not wish to place information into the public domain which they know to be incorrect.

It also needs to be remembered that there may be a number of non-injury RTA's / RTC's that have not been reported to Wiltshire Police at all (for instance when incidents have only involved one vehicle which remains driveable, when drivers swap details and do not involve Police and so on), which would also undermine any information we were able to supply in respect of these.

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 :-

Our Justice Traffic Team only hold injury-collision data up to and including May 2022 – there is currently a significant backlog in respect of the processing and adding of information onto our systems due to a combination of the effects of the COVID Pandemic and resourcing issues within the Team.

Over the last 20 years (from 1st January 2003 to 31st May 2022 inclusive), these are the accident/collision statistics where injuries have been reported that have been recorded for Ashley Crossroads on the A363 nr Bradford-on-Avon :-

Number of non-Injury RTA's	Exempt from response – see above
Number of Injury RTA's	18 (2 serious, 16 slight)
Number of Casualties	30 (3 serious, 27 slight)

The details regarding the Injury RTA's / RTC's are as follows :-

Injury RTA's

Details

Date	Time	Vehicles	Weather	Road	Description
15/08/2003	1305	2	Fine	Dry	V1 (car) travelling SE on A363. V2 (van) pulled out from Golf Club to turn left onto A363, collided with V1

31/07/2004	1946	3	Fine	Dry	V3 (car) stationary on A363 facing SE waiting to turn right into Ashley Road. V2 (car) stopped behind. V1 (car) failed to stop and collided with rear of V2
12/09/2004	1510	2	Fine	Dry	V2 (car) trav NW on A363 indicated to turn left into u/c road was struck in the rear by V1 (car) which was travelling behind
11/02/2005	1308	3	Fine	Wet/damp	AS V2 (van) overtook (lorry), V3 (lorry) pulled out of jctn and collided with V1
23/01/2006	1517	2	Fine	Wet/damp	V2 (car) braked due to traffic ahead and was hit from behind by V1 (car)
15/06/2007	2357	2	Fine	Wet/damp	V1 (car) turned right onto A363 from unclassified road into path of V2 (car) travelling NW on A363
04/07/2008	2057	2	Raining	Wet/damp	V1 (car) trav NE pulled out onto main road and collided with nearside of V2 (car) trav NW on main road
29/07/2008	1330	2	Fine	Dry	V1 (car) trav NE pulled out onto main road intending to turn right and was struck by V2 (m/c) trav NW on main road
04/11/2009	1115	2	Fine	Wet/damp	V1 (car) trav NW drifted to offside into opposite carriageway and collided with V2 9car) trav SE
31/07/2012	0725	3	Raining	Wet/damp	V3(car) was stationary facing NW, V2 (lorry) trav NW pulled up alongside V3, spoke with driver and moved off to turn right into the offside jctn. V1 (car) also trav NW, tried to overtake V2 as V2 started to turn right and a collision occurred

17/10/2012	0845	3	Fine	Flood	V3 (car) & V2 (car) trav SW had stopped behind a vehicle which was waiting to turn right, V1 (car) trav SW came up behind V2, braked but skidded into rear of V2 pushing V2 into rear of V3
01/03/2014	0636	2	Fine	Frost/ice	V1 (car) trav NW approaching previous collision, braked, skidded on icy road surface, lost control, entered opposite carriageway and collided head-on with V2 (car) trav SE
09/12/2015	2050	3	Fine	Dry	V1 (car) trav NW started to overtake V2 (van) trav NW failing to see V3 (car) trav SE. V1 & V3 have tried to take avoiding action but have collided o/side to o/side. V1 has also collided with o/side of V2
07/01/2016	1909	2	Fine	Wet/damp	V1 (car) trav NW turned right to leave main road across path of V2 (car) trav SE. V2 collided with nearside of V1 causing V1 to leave carriageway and collide with sign for Golf Club
16/06/2016	1153	2	Fine	Dry	V2 (car) trav NW slowed due to vehicle ahead slowing to turn left off main road. V1 (car) trav NW behind V2 failed to slow and collided with rear of V2
21/05/2017	1808	2	Fine	Dry	V1 (m/cycle) trav SE began overtaking van in front, failing to see V2 (car) trav SE in front of van turning right at jctn. V1 tried to avoid collision but skidded and collided with rear of V2
15/12/2017	1539	1	Fine	Wet/damp	V1 (car) trav SE has left c/way offside and mounted verge, hitting tree and overturning, rebounding back into c/way
10/02/2021	1725	1	unstated	Frost/ice	V1 (car) trav NE has slid on ice and spun around. V1 rear has collided with wall

Accidents Involving

	Fatal	Serious	Slight	Total
Motor Vehicles (excl 2-wheel)	0	1	15	16
2-wheeled Motor Vehicles	0	1	1	2
Pedal Cycles	0	0	0	0
Horses and Other	0	0	0	0
Total	0	2	16	18

Casualties

	Fatal	Serious	Slight	Total
Vehicle Driver	0	2	21	23
Passenger	0	0	5	5
Motorcycle Rider	0	1	1	2
Cyclist	0	0	0	0
Pedestrian	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
Total	0	3	27	30

Ordinarily under our section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you how to refine your request in respect of questions around non-injury collisions 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.



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