

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXXXXX
By email

**Force Disclosure Unit
Police Headquarters**

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date 1st February 2023

Our Ref FOI 2023-042

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 10th January 2023, concerning 'Digital Twin' modelling and smart cities programme / projects.

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 Head of IT and Portfolios Manager at Wiltshire Police.

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

You wrote:

I am currently engaged in research to understand which data modelling techniques used by the military and defence sectors might bring value to UK policing. In order to do this, I need to baseline the current maturity of these techniques in the police and criminal justice spaces.

To assist with this could the force provide me with the following information:

1. Is the force currently working on or toward the creation of a 'digital twin' in order to model operational responses or future force strategy
2. Is the force currently engaged in any of the UK smart cities programmes or projects and if so which programmes of work?
3. Is the force currently working (either through partnership or informal agreements) with any academic institutions for either digital twins modelling or in relation to smart cities. If so, which institutions.

Clarification received 11.01.2023

Safer Cities:

These are projects typically run by large metropolitan boroughs (London, Leeds, Manchester,

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Bristol etc). The largest (GM-Connect in Greater Manchester or the Mayor's Safer Boroughs in London) look at how to coordinate multiple agencies across a geographic area that may span multiple forces or agencies. I've attached the current safer cities directory as a link below which gives an idea of what and where they are in more detail:

https://eu.eventscloud.com/file_uploads/2ed36ce5867a41381abc8a5861b7fcd7_UKSmartCitiesDirectory.pdf

They have now moved out of cities to many larger towns (perhaps the size of Swindon and above). These also run under the banner of 'safer cities' and look at how organisations such as health, police, fire, housing can work collaboratively to provide a coordinated response across the 'city' area.

My experience to date is that whoever leads of partnerships in force would probably be best placed to respond.

Digital Twins:

A technique used (mainly in defence and National Security) to create a digital representation of an organisation and its resources (in this case it would be a computer model of Wiltshire Police). This is then used to 'stress test' the organisation or 'dry run' changes in the digital model before attempting to make any changes in real life.

Again, based on my experience to date, this area would typically sit with the Head of IT or within the IT department of a force.

Our Response:

No information held. Wiltshire Police do not currently have any 'Digital Twin' modelling or safer cities programmes / projects, and therefore we do not hold the information you require.

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,

Abigail Standidge

Phone: 01722 547081

Email: abigail.standidge@wiltshire.police.uk

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



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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 to contact them, please visit <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>

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