



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

Date: 3th February 2023

Ref: FOI 2023/116

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 19th January 2023 concerning the costs of policing hunt meets.

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:

I understand a new budget is planned for the next financial year.

Last year I put in 2 Freedom of information requests regarding deployment of police. FOI 2022/184 & FOI 2022/294 both of these came back 'No Information held' on the subject of costing.

Therefore as a new budget is planned, I assume the costing of these operations is now known.

I now wish to ask as a Freedom of Information request.

What was the costing of policing the meet of the AVH at Broughton Gifford on 19/02/22 (originally asked in FOI 2022/186)

What was the costing of policing the meet of the RA hunt on 02/04/22 (originally asked in FOI 2022/294)

How many call outs to hunt related activity were attended by police in the financial years 2021-2022, and 2022-2023 (to date) and what was their cost?

Could I also please have a breakdown of these figures of police attendance according to who the police responded to.

No of attendances when called by a hunt or hunt supporter.

No of attendances when called by a Monitor or Saboteur group.

Our response:

The information that you are requesting (namely the last two questions) is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval. This is because this information regarding whether a reporting person was either a hunt supporter or protestor, would not necessarily be recorded unless it is relevant to the report. The only way we would know this information is if the caller voluntarily gave that information to us, otherwise, we would not routinely ask whether a caller is a hunt supporter or protestor. If this information was given to us and is recorded, it would be detailed within the call log itself and as a result, the only way in which we would be able to obtain this information accurately would be if we were to manually trawl through each call log made for the time frame requested.

Therefore, 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.

Ordinarily under our Section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you how to refine your request to a more manageable level and in order to do so, I would suggest submitting the costings part of your request separately as we may be able to assist you with this.

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.

Proud to serve and protect our communities

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.

Proud to serve and protect our communities

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