

**Police Headquarters**

London Road

DEVIZES

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

[disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk](mailto:disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk)

Date: June 12, 2023

Your ref:

**Our ref: FOI 2023/399**

Reply contact name is:

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information, dated 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023 concerning Firearms incidents.

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 Team Performance Department of Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

**You Wrote:**

Using the latest available data and going back to 2015, please provide a year-by-year breakdown by postcode of:

(a) all logged firearms incident reports

NOTE: If a Postcode for the above logged data is not recorded or available, please provide the data by Divisional Area Code and Beat Code

Following the processing of each of the above logged incidents, please provide the following data by Postcode:

- (b) Non-fatal injury by shooting
- (c) Murder by shooting
- (d) Firearms discharge
- (e) Firearms recovery following search
- (f) Ammunition recovery

NOTE: If a Postcode for the above logged data is not recorded or available, please provide the data by Divisional Area Code and Beat Code

In your kind and prompt reply you state your recording of firearms incidents is 'discretionary' and 'cannot be trusted'.

You also state that you do not 'have fields in which we specifically record the type of firearm'.

However, the Office of National Statistics publishes datasets for "offences involving the use of weapons" which is an amalgamation of data provided by Police forces across England and Wales between 2003 and 2022.

Has the Wiltshire Force not submitted these figures each and every year for the past two decades?

These data sets from the ONS provide detailed descriptions of the firearms used, and also break the offences down to sub-categories within "Violence Against the Person", criminal damage etc ...

Despite your reassurance that it would take a member of the Information Team at Wiltshire Police to go through every call logged, it appears much of this data may already have been collated and prepared to be submitted annually since 2003 for ONS use.

### **Response:**

On reviewing your original Freedom of Information request, the response provided to you are your request for an Internal Review, I uphold the original response provided to you.

To confirm, the information that you are requesting is not stored in a way which allows for easy retrieval and Wiltshire Police do not have the search facility to automatically gather this data. To clarify, our Team Performance Department have stated that they would have to search and read each and every Occurrence tagged with 'Firearm used/threatened' as well as stop and search record for the requested time periods individually to determine whether they related to your request.

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. Therefore the whole of the request should fall under the exemption of section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Ordinarily under our Section 16 obligation to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you of a way to refine your request. However, due to the difficulties as outlined above, I cannot think of a way in which this can be achieved.

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:

**Proud to serve and protect our communities**

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,



The 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

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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/>