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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

Date: 2nd May 2023

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2023 / 484

I write in connection with your request for information dated 26th April concerning people sleeping in non-abode based places.

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:

My request relates to reports made to the police about people sleeping, staying, or living in vehicles or else in non-residential settings or non-permanent structures, for example tents, outbuildings, huts, etc.

I would like to request the following information please:

In the last 5 years, how many reports has your police force received of incidents of people sleeping, staying, or living in a car, van, or other vehicle?

Please provide this information broken down year-by-year since April 2018 EG:

1st April 2018 - 31st March 2019

1st April 2019 - 31st March 2020

1st April 2020 - 31st March 2021

1st April 2021 - 31st March 2022

1st April 2022 - 31st March 2023

In the same period, how many reports did the police force receive of people squatting in private or public buildings, sleeping, staying, or living outdoors in tents, in outbuildings eg sheds, or any other temporary outside structure (eg a hut).

Please provide this information broken down year-by-year since April 2018 EG:

1st April 2018 - 31st March 2019

1st April 2019 - 31st March 2020



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

1st April 2020 - 31st March 2021
1st April 2021 - 31st March 2022
1st April 2022 - 31st March 2023

If possible, please do not include multiple reports of the same incident e.g. 3 separate calls about the same person sleeping in a car.

Our response:

The information that you are requesting is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.

Wiltshire Police currently do not have the capability within our systems to immediately identify and break down a report regarding the sleeping arrangements of individuals reported. This is simply because either a report would be logged via 101 or 999, where for example a person had been located in a tent outside an address, or it would be logged on a crime report as part of a summary (as there is no mandatory inputs for such things on our system). This means in order to accurately obtain the information you had requested, we'd have to manually interrogate every report from these times periods.

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.

Normally under our section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you how to refine your request to a more manageable level. However, in this case, we do not believe that is possible due to the circumstances surrounding this request.

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.

Wiltshire Police would like to thank you for the interest that you have shown in the Force.

Yours sincerely,

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 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