

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXXXXXXX
By email

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

Date 2nd June 2023

Our Ref FOI 2023-551

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 18th May 2023, concerning illegal exhausts.

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 Contact Management department at Wiltshire Police.

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

You wrote and our response:

I am currently researching the police response to illegal exhausts on vehicles, that is to say ones that have been modified to be louder than their original manufacture and thus breaching the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 s 54(2).

Below is a link to a video to help you understand the sort of offence I am referring to.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4jH9dzTCT-k>

Clearly there are two potential scenarios where the register keeper is known and unknown when the VRM is supplied.

1. I would appreciate just a brief explanation as to what action the police would take if a member of the public called 101 with the VRM, reporting it for an illegal exhaust.

A decision regarding how best to action a report of a loud exhaust would be made after considering multiple factors - the vehicle, the driver, the surrounding circumstances, the outcome of the THRIVE+ (Threat, Harm, Risk, Investigation, Vulnerability, Engagement & Expectations, Prevention & Intervention) assessment etc. There is not one single solution for how we would deal with these types of reports, but these may include:

- ❖ Recommending noise nuisance and anti-social behaviour to be reported to the Council, who also hold enforcement powers, as Wiltshire Police do not currently have the ability to

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measure the sound levels of vehicles. Checks would be completed on repeat instances, such as locations and people.

- ❖ Recording the incident as intelligence, as this may be most suitable for the circumstances depending on the vehicle and driver details.
- ❖ Tasking to the local Neighbourhood Policing Team, if this is a persistent problem, for problem solving similar to how car meets would be addressed.

Further information regarding what happens after a crime is reported can be found here : [What happens after you report a crime? | Wiltshire Police.](#)

2. Does your Chief Constable agree that such illegal exhausts may frighten horses putting lives and property at risk?

This question engages section 8(1)(c) of the Act since the question is asking for an opinion, not for information held by the Force, and therefore it is not considered valid. To make this question valid, you will need to ask for information that is already held by the Force.

Further information on how to submit a valid request can be found on the ICO website : [How to access information from a public authority | ICO.](#)

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



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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 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

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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