



# WILTSHIRE POLICE

## Force Disclosure Unit

Police Headquarters  
London Road  
DEVIZES  
Wiltshire  
SN10 2DN

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Ref: FOI 2023/762

I write in connection with your request for information dated 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023 concerning Special Constables.

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 after having consulted the Specials Team – I am now able to respond as follows.

### **You wrote / Our response:**

#### REQUEST 1:

How many Special Constables do you currently have in your Force?

- 117

Does your force allow Special Constables to be based or posted within Emergency Response Teams as well as Specialist Units? If so, which units are Special Constables NOT allowed to be based or posted to?

- If the ERT are the same as our regulars on the main Community Policing Teams then, yes.
- With specialist units, we currently don't post them to areas that require additional qualifications – CID, PPD, Counter Terrorism, Firearms, Dogs etc.

#### REQUEST 2:

Does your force offer your Special Constables Standard/Response driving courses?

- Yes

If yes, how many Special Constables in your force are trained in Standard/Response driving?

- 29

If applicable, what are the eligibility/selection criteria to apply for or be selected for a Standard Response driving course?

- Signed off as Directed Patrol Status officer, completing minimum monthly 16hrs for past 6mths. Selected also based on length of service.

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REQUEST 3:

Does your force offer your Special Constables the opportunity to become Advanced Driving trained?

- No

If yes, how many Special Constables are currently Advanced Driving trained?

If applicable, what are the eligibility/selection criteria to apply or be selected for an Advanced Driving course?

- N/A

REQUEST 4:

Does your force offer Special Constables the opportunity to be trained in Initial Phase Pursuit (IPP)?

- No

If yes, how many Special Constables are currently IPP trained?

If applicable, what are the eligibility/selection criteria to apply for or to be selected for an IPP course?

- N/A

REQUEST 5:

Does your force offer Special Constables the opportunity to be Taser trained?

- Yes

If yes, how many Special Constables are currently Taser trained?

- 0

If applicable, what are the eligibility/selection criteria apply for or be selected for a Taser course?

- Achieved directed patrol status (DPS).
- Completed 12 months' service since achieving DPS.
- Completed 200 hours duty since achieving DPS.
- Be a member of the Police Federation
- In addition, applicants must be subject to a professional standards check, be current and competent in personal safety training (PST), first aid training, attained the required fitness standard, and have their application endorsed by the relevant force senior officers.

REQUEST 6:

Does your force offer Special Constables the opportunity to be Public Order Level 2 trained?

- Yes

If yes, how many Special Constables are currently Public Order Level 2 trained?

- 4

If applicable, what are the eligibility/selection criteria to apply for or to be selected for a Public Order Level 2 course?

- Signed off as a Qualified Special, those picked for the course are done so by the PSU training team.

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,  
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](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.

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#### **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)