

**Police Headquarters**

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

Date 30th August 2023 Your ref:

Our ref: FOI 2023/785

Reply contact name is:

Dear

I write in connection with your request for information, dated 7th August 2023 concerning high value watch thefts.

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 Business Intelligence 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:

1) Please can I have the number of incidents where high value watches (value over £1,000) have been reported stolen to your force. Please can I have the data broken down into four financial years. 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-present.

2) Please can I have the number of these thefts that also includes assaults / violence towards the victim during the robbery and the number of these victims that needed subsequent hospital attention. Please can I have the data broken down into four financial years. 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-present.

Response:

Unfortunately the information you have requested is not stored in a way which allows for easy retrieval. Whilst all reported thefts are recorded, the information as to what property has been stolen is within the text of the investigation log itself, which is not automatically searchable. In order to accurately ascertain how many reports are relevant to your questions, we would need to manually evaluate each theft investigation within the time periods specified, which would easily exceed our obligations under the time regulations.

Proud to serve and protect our communities

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 falls 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 to a more manageable level. However, due to the difficulties in obtaining the requested information, as outlined above, I cannot think of a way in which this could 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:

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,

Force Disclosure Decision Maker