

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.ukdisclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

XXXXXX – by email

Date: 9th August 2023

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2023 / 790

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 8th August 2023 concerning Thefts of Agricultural Equipment & Machinery.

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:

Could I please have the following information:

How many reports of stolen agricultural equipment / machinery have been made in your force this year?

Please could I have the figure for 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023

Our response:

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

Wiltshire Police record crimes in accordance with Home Office Crime Recording guidelines. There is no specific Home Office Crime Code under which the theft of Agricultural Equipment and Machinery is recorded. These kinds of thefts could be recorded on our systems under any of the following crime categories :-

- All Other Theft Offences
- Theft from the Person



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

- Theft of a Motor Vehicle
- Misc Crimes Against Society

Whilst our crime recording system(s) are sophisticated and we have a number of designated fields in which we can record specific aspects of a crime or incident - and on which we could then theoretically search – we do not have a specific field in which we record either the type of item stolen in a theft or the fact that Agricultural Machinery or Equipment is involved. This data would only be recorded within the full Occurrence Log of an offence.

In addition, whilst we could undertake a 'wildcard' search of our system(s) for the appearance of keywords such as "Tractor", "Combine", "Thresher" and so on, these kinds of searches can only be run against the abbreviated summary description of the offence rather than the full crime log. If these terms are mentioned in the full report only (rather than the summary description) or these specific words are even misspelt incorrectly in the abbreviated description of an offence, then they would not appear in any searches undertaken of this kind. Therefore, we do not consider searches of this nature to be accurate enough to be used to then publish data in the public domain, which essentially this FOI request will be.

To accurately obtain the information you require would necessitate a manual review of each crime log reported on our systems for the 4 Crime Categories mentioned above.

Given that Wiltshire Police record something in the region of 5,000 individual crimes per annum under the above 4 crime categories, this would entail a manual review of something well in excess of 40,000 individual crime records. 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.

Please also note that if one part of the request engages a Section 12 response, the whole request will engage a Section 12 response. The reason being is due to the fact that locating, retrieving and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations.

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. 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 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.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss the withheld information.

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,

Nick Penny
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 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