

WILTSHIRE POLICE



Police Headquarters

London Road

DEVIZES

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

Date 12th September 2023

Your ref:

Our ref: **FOI 2023/845**

Reply contact name is:

Dear

I write in connection with your request for information, dated 23rd August 2023 concerning UFOs.

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:

For a special report, I was wondering if you would be able to provide us numbers of how many UFO sightings have been reported over a five-year period (**From 1st January, 2019 to 23 August 2023**)?

Is there more information on what these were and which town they reported from? Please also give us dates if possible.

Response:

Unfortunately it is not possible to retrieve the information that you have requested within our obligations under the fees regulations. There is no 'tag' as such for reports of UFOs and as such we would need to manually peruse all reports to ascertain which were relevant to your request.

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