

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXXXXX
By email

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

Date 22nd September 2023

Our Ref FOI 2023-793

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 8th August 2023, concerning Special Constables training and budgets. Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in providing a response to your request.

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 Recruitment, Finance and Driver Training Unit departments and the Specials Coordinator at Wiltshire Police. Your request for information has now been considered and I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

You wrote and our response:

1. How many Special Constables have Wiltshire Police recruited for each of the following calendar years:
 - a. 2018 = **117**
 - b. 2019 = **23**
 - c. 2020 = **19**
 - d. 2021 = **20**
 - e. 2022 = **27**
 - f. 2023 = **No information held (have not yet run the intake for 2023)**
2. Of those Special Constables recruited between calendar years 2018-2022, how many are no longer a serving Special Constable with Wiltshire Police for any reason?
 - a. 2018 = **96**
 - b. 2019 = **17**
 - c. 2020 = **14**
 - d. 2021 = **8**
 - e. 2022 = **12**
 - f. 2023 = **No information held (have not yet run the intake for 2023)**

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3. How many serving Special Constables in Wiltshire Police have 5 years or more of continuous service?

70

4. How many hours in total have Special Constables provided to Wiltshire Police in the following financial years:

- a. 2018 = **76875:23**
- b. 2019 = **58237:40**
- c. 2020 = **50636:52**
- d. 2021 = **32605:40**
- e. 2022 = **33540:51**

5. What budget has been allocated to Wiltshire Special Constabulary in the following financial years:

- a. 2018 = **£133,740.00**
- b. 2019 = **£113,000.00**
- c. 2020 = **£113,000.00**
- d. 2021 = **£113,000.00**
- e. 2022 = **£113,000.00**
- f. 2023 = **£113,000.00**

6. For each financial year 2018 – 2022, what was the total annual cost of "running" Wiltshire Special Constabulary?

2018/19 = £138,156.08

2019/20 = £87,447.44

2020/21 = £56,857.25

2021/22 = £104,648.68

2022/23 = £73,449.84

7. For each of the financial years 2018– 2022, please provide a financial breakdown of expenditure for Wiltshire Special Constabulary.

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Training	49,800.65	38059.24	15544.88	55218.39	25621.73
Medical Cost				40	
Travel Allowances - Specials	47572	36053.27	20946.59	32314.06	29391.83
Accident Repair	0	0	5245.82		
Petrol	0	1585.96	6581.27	7527.52	6752.76
Car Parking	0	22.33			
Public Transport	0	178.4			
Books	0	0	54.13		
External Catering	6,309.04	3186.11	313	63.58	15
Software Purchase	-	0	0	126.99	
Uniform Non stock	-	143.45			
General equipment	6171.66	52.83			
External Fees	137.5	200			

Presentations & Awards	0	310			
Mobile Phone	18,500.00	0			
Subscriptions	371.75	7,567.59	7710.89	9261.25	11092.22
Publicity	0	-	450		
Admin Charges	127.5	74.96	0	0	
Subsistence - Specials	60.98	13.3	10.67		19.06
Accommodation	0	0	0	96.89	543.49
Refreshments	255				13.75
Partnership Projects	8850				
TOTAL	138,156.08	87,447.44	56,857.25	104,648.68	73,449.84

8. What is the current average cost to train and equip a new Wiltshire Special Constable?

There is not a requirement for a Public Authority to create data to furnish a request for information, where this data is not already held.

9. What is the current average "running cost" of supporting one operational special constable, per year?

There is not a requirement for a Public Authority to create data to furnish a request for information, where this data is not already held.

10. What areas of 'specialism' can a Special Constable specialise within Wiltshire Police?

Road Policing Unit, Drone Unit, Cyber

11. For each 'specialism' for Special Constable's, how much money has been invested in the specialism for each of the following financial years:

- a. 2018 =
- b. 2019 =
- c. 2020 =
- d. 2021 =
- e. 2022 =

This question engages s12 of the FOIA. Please see response at the end of the questions.

12. How many serving Special Constables within Wiltshire Police are standard driver trained?

29

13. What are the criteria for a Special Constable within Wiltshire Police to be offered standard driver training?

Signed off as 'Directed Patrol Status' completing minimum 16hrs monthly for 6mths

14. How much does it cost to train a Special Constable to standard driver level?

We do not run separate courses for Special Constables. Standard Response courses involve both regulars and specials.

15. How many serving Special Constables currently within Wiltshire Police are initial pursuit trained? If none, is there a policy/operational reason for this, if so, what is the reasoning?

None – Reason unknown but have never been trained.

16. What are the criteria for a Special Constable within Wiltshire Police to be offered initial pursuit training?

N/A – They are not trained in pursuit.

17. How many serving Special Constables within Wiltshire Police are HOSTYD trained? If none, is there a policy/operational reason for this, if so, what is the reasoning?

None – Wiltshire Police deliver IPP (initial phase pursuit) and HOSTYD training as one package, therefore, to be HOSTYD trained requires being IPP trained. As Special Constables are not IPP trained, they cannot be HOSTYD trained.

18. What are the criteria for a Special Constable within Wiltshire Police to be offered HOSTYD training?

N/A – Not offered as not pursuit trained.

19. How much does it cost to train a Special Constable in initial pursuit and/or HOSTYD?

N/A – We do not train Specials in IPP or HOSTYD.

20. How many Special Constables currently within Wiltshire Police are Advanced Driver Trained and what unit/department do they operate on?

None – We do not train as advanced drivers.

21. What are the criteria for a Special Constable within your force to be offered Advanced Driver Training?

N/A – see above.

22. How much does it cost to train a Special Constable to advanced driver level?

N/A – see above.

Question 11 response

Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) requires Wiltshire Police to confirm or deny whether the requested information is held. After extensive queries made to various departments, it has been determined that to establish whether the information is held - namely the amount of money invested in each 'specialism' for Special Constables - would in itself exceed the time obligations placed upon the authority to comply (18 hours) and therefore engages section 12(2).

The departments contacted are those that it would have been reasonable to assume would know the response to this question, however none of the departments were able to assist. Therefore, I would have to extend my queries - likely Force wide - to establish who within the Force could provide a response.

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

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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.

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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