



WILTSHIRE POLICE

Force Disclosure Unit

Police Headquarters
London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: 15th September 2023

Ref: FOI 2023/896

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 14th September 2023 concerning drink driving charges.

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:

I wondered if you would be able to supply me with the number of drink driving charges recorded by month, since 2013? (If the past ten years would take too long, the past five would work!)

And, if possible, whether the driver has been served a driving ban, an unlimited fine, or 6 months' imprisonment.

Our response:

The information that you are requesting is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval. This is because we do not currently have the capability within our systems to quickly and accurately retrieve information on the number of drivers charged with drink driving. Drink driving is a summary offence which means that it cannot easily be extracted from our systems. Therefore, the only way in which we would be able to obtain this information accurately would be to read each incident recorded within the time period requested.

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

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flat rate of £25 per hour for those work activities comprising of confirming the information is held, locating it, retrieving it and extracting it.

Please 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.

Although excess cost removes the forces' obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request. What I am able to provide you are the answers documented below –

The information provided below is the number of Custody arrests for drink driving for which the closing disposal is charged.

Please note, that the information below does not represent the total number of charges for drink driving there have been within the requested time frame – this information has simply been pulled from our Custody data and will not be inclusive of all relevant information we hold. Not only this, but please be aware that although the arrest reason may have been for drink driving, the charges that have come about may not be in relation to drink driving but in relation to other offences instead.

Arrest Month & Year	Arrests for Drink Driving with Closing Disposal of Charged
Sep-2017	37
Oct-2017	38
Nov-2017	38
Dec-2017	53
Jan-2018	48
Feb-2018	31
Mar-2018	42
Apr-2018	32
May-2018	35
Jun-2018	39
Jul-2018	39
Aug-2018	33
Sep-2018	32
Oct-2018	44
Nov-2018	52
Dec-2018	44
Jan-2019	42
Feb-2019	37
Mar-2019	48
Apr-2019	38

May-2019	46
Jun-2019	49
Jul-2019	36
Aug-2019	38
Sep-2019	44
Oct-2019	69
Nov-2019	68
Dec-2019	70
Jan-2020	44
Feb-2020	48
Mar-2020	51
Apr-2020	30
May-2020	38
Jun-2020	36
Jul-2020	51
Aug-2020	48
Sep-2020	37
Oct-2020	50
Nov-2020	32
Dec-2020	24
Jan-2021	26
Feb-2021	26
Mar-2021	21
Apr-2021	39
May-2021	58
Jun-2021	53
Jul-2021	60
Aug-2021	54
Sep-2021	41
Oct-2021	51
Nov-2021	36
Dec-2021	55
Jan-2022	55
Feb-2022	50
Mar-2022	45
Apr-2022	37
May-2022	35
Jun-2022	42
Jul-2022	42
Aug-2022	46
Sep-2022	42
Oct-2022	47
Nov-2022	42
Dec-2022	37
Jan-2023	44
Feb-2023	37
Mar-2023	42

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Apr-2023	34
May-2023	47
Jun-2023	32
Jul-2023	35
Aug-2023	29
Sep-2023 (so far)	16

Ordinarily under our Section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you how to refine your request to a more manageable level. However, due to the difficulties outlined above, I cannot see how this can be achieved in this particular case.

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

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.

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