

WILTSHIRE POLICE



Via email



Police Headquarters

London Road

DEVIZES

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

Date 13/10/2023

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: **FOI 2023/956**

Reply contact name is:

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 04/10/2023 concerning crimes recorded where the suspect is an asylum seeker.

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:

Please could you provide figures for the number of crimes recorded between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023 where the suspect was an asylum seeker?

Can you also provide a description of these crimes as recorded?

Can you also say if the suspect was charged?

Finally, where possible can you say if the suspect was staying in a hotel?

Response:

The information that you are requesting for the majority of your request is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval. Without an address of every single venue that

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accommodates asylum seekers within the county to search on, the only way in which we would be able to retrieve this information is by manually searching through each call log made within the time frame requested to see if it related to a report about a hotel or other accommodation and then hazard a guess as to whether this accommodation houses asylum seekers. We do not record who is listed as an asylum seeker as this is not a required piece of information when recording a crime. It may be noted within the report, however, we would need to manually search through each potentially relevant report in the given time frame. The amount of reports that would have to be searched for the time frame, would undoubtedly exceed the time/cost limitations.

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 and in order to do so, I would suggest that you provide us with a list of addresses that are venues which house asylum seekers as once we have this, then we will be able to carry out a more accurate and pointed search for you in order to retrieve the information requested.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Wiltshire Police, when refusing to provide 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. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice for those aspects of your request.

Exemptions applied:

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.

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

Yours sincerely

Force Disclosure Decision Maker



The 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

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

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 you contact them, please visit <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>