

**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: 23rd October 2023

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2023 / 1012

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 25th July 2023 concerning crimes and incidents involving E-Scooters.

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 all the information you have requested.

You wrote:

Please could you provide the total number of reports your police force has received this year so far (2023) about incidents involving electric scooters? Please also provide the total number for last year (2022) and 2021.

Please provide the total number of reports received about incidents involving electric scooters and please provide a breakdown of the total number of reports for each category of incident in each year.

So, how many incidents reported involved a road collision with other vehicles or pedestrians, how many involved an electric scooter being stolen, how many involved anti-social behaviour and crimes etc. until the full number of different types of reports received involving electric scooters is reflected. Please provide the numbers for each of the above years.

Please provide the total number of, and the details of, incidents which led to formal action being taken such as arrests or charges. So how many arrests, charges or other types of formal action such as cautions have there been in relation to reports of incidents involving electric scooters and what were they for?

And how many of these have resulted in convictions and, also, what were those for? Again please provide this information for all of the years above.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Please ensure that within the information requested above, it is clear how many alleged crimes involving an electric scooter have been recorded by your force for each of the years above, and please provide a breakdown of all the different types of crimes that were recorded in each year, so how many reports of anti-social behaviour involving an electric scooter were there, how many thefts involving an e-scooter were there and so on.

If it requires free-searching terms in your database with the words 'electric scooter' or any other configuration please do so.

Our response:

The information that you are requesting for collisions involving E Scooters is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.

Unless they are injury-related collisions (which are stored differently in our systems), we are not able to identify collisions involving E-Scooters quickly or easily, as we do not have designated fields on our system(s) in which we can record whether or not an accident involved an E Scooter or not.

In order to gather the requested information for non-injury collisions, we would need to locate and review all of the accident reports for the time periods you require in order to identify whether or not an E-Scooter was involved and – if so – make a separate record of it. For the number of months this information is being asked for, 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.

It should also be noted that there is no obligation on an authority to create data where none exists today, simply in order to answer an FOI request.

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. This data refers to the remainder of your request :-

Collision Data

Year	Injury Collisions
2021	11
2022	9
2023 ytd	5

Note :-

Our Justice Traffic Team are currently dealing with a large backlog of information which is currently being put on our systems. They have confirmed that the data held on our systems for

2023 is only up to and including the end of April 2023. Data for 2023 is therefore currently some 6 months out of date.

Incidents featuring E-Scooters

Year	Incidents
2021	101
2022	74
2023 ytd	57
Total	232

Note – an Incident is a report to Police which is not deemed a formal criminal offence. Incidents do not therefore result in charges or convictions.

Incidents featuring E-Scooters by Incident Category

Incident Group	2021	2022	2023 ytd	Total
Admin	10	3	3	16
Admin - Lost /found property / found person			1	1
Admin - Police Generated Resource Activity	7	6	3	16
Admin - Problem Solving SARA	1			1
Arson And Criminal Damage			1	1
ASB	15	16	11	42
Fraud	1			1
Niche Incident		1		1
Possession Of Weapons Offences		1		1
PSW - Suspicious circumstances/ Insecure Premises/ Vehicles	3	4	2	9
Public Safety	4	2	3	9
Robbery		1		1
Theft Offences	4	1	1	6
Transport	53	38	32	123
Vehicle Offences	1			1
Violence Against The Person	2	1		3
Total	101	74	57	232

Crimes featuring E-Scooters

Year	Crimes
2021	42
2022	76
2023 ytd	48
Total	166

Crimes featuring E-Scooters by Crime Sub-Group (Category)

Crime Sub-Group	2021	2022	2023 ytd	Total
All Other Theft Offences	6	8	9	23
Bicycle Theft			2	2
Burglary Business And Community			2	2
Burglary Residential	4	3	1	8
Criminal Damage	1	3	2	6
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society		1		1
Possession Of Drugs	5	1		6
Possession Of Weapons	1		1	2
Public Order Offences	6	9	4	19
Residential Burglary Of A Home			1	1
Residential Burglary Of Unconnected Building			1	1
Robbery	7	7	2	16
Shoplifting	2	4		6
Stalking And Harassment			1	1
Theft From The Person	1	4	1	6
Trafficking Of Drugs			1	1
Unstated		1		1
Vehicle Offences	7	24	12	43
Violence With Injury		6	3	9
Violence Without Injury	2	5	5	12
Total	42	76	48	166

Conviction Data

No Information Held.

Wiltshire Police do not hold any conviction information. Under our Section 16 duty to be as helpful as possible to an applicant, we would suggest you submit another FOI request directly to CPS (Crown Prosecution Service) for this information.

Crimes by Detection Status

Detection Status	2021	2022	2023 ytd	Total
1: Charged		3	1	4
1: Summoned/postal requisition		1		1
10: Police - formal action not in public interest	1			1
14: Victim declines/unable to support action to identify offender	2	3	1	6
15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	4	9	1	14
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	5	10	2	17
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified	23	42	22	87
1A: Alternate offence summonsed/postal requisition		1		1
21: Police - named suspect, investigation not in the public interest	1			1
3: Adult caution		1		1
6: Penalty notice for disorder	1			1
7: Cannabis warning	1			1
8: Community resolution	1			1
8: Youth restorative disposal			1	1
Cancelled/transferred	2	5	1	8
New	1		19	20
Other incident non crime		1		1
Total	42	76	48	166

Please Note

The Crime and Incident information provided to you above has been generated by undertaking a free-text or “wildcard” search of information on our system as requested.

Due to issues with the integrity of results found using wildcard or free-text searches, Wiltshire Police would not normally release information into the public domain (as this FOI response will be) unless an applicant specifically requests one to be undertaken, as you have.

We have run these searches using three wildcard conditions of the following - “E Scooter” , “Electric Scooter” and “E-Scooter”. However, the following needs to be noted :-

- Wildcard searches can only be run against the abbreviated summary description of a crime or an incident (which is some 200 characters long) – it is not possible for us to search on the whole occurrence log of a crime or incident.
- If one of those wildcard words is featured in the full occurrence log but not the summary description of an offence, it will not feature in these results.
- Similarly, the results generated for wildcard searches are dependent on those keywords being spelt grammatically correctly for them to be found – if the word Scooter is mis-spelt as (for instance) Scooter, then it will not feature in any searches run using this method.

It is for those reasons that we have to heavily caveat any FOI responses that feature data that has been produced using this method.

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,

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 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.

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