



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

Date: 10th October 2023

Ref: FOI 2023/865

I write in connection with your request for information dated 30th August 2023 concerning burglaries and shoplifting.

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 after having consulted Performance Team – I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

Please provide the following:

1(a) Number of reported burglaries in (i) 2022 (ii) between 01/01/2023 - 01/08/2023

1(b) Number of reported burglaries where police officers attended the scene in (i) 2022 (ii) between 01/01/2023 - 01/08/2023

1(c) Number of reported burglaries where a suspect was charged in (i) 2022 (ii) between 01/01/2023 - 01/08/2023

1(d) Number of reported burglaries where the case was closed with no suspect identified in (i) 2022 (ii) between 01/01/2023 - 01/08/2023

2(a) Number of shoplifting cases reported in (i) 2022 (ii) between 01/01/2023 - 01/08/2023

2(b) Number of shoplifting cases reported where police officers attended the scene in (i) 2022 (ii) between 01/01/2023 - 01/08/2023

2(c) Number of shoplifting cases reported where a suspect was charged in (i) 2022 (ii) between 01/01/2023 - 01/08/2023

2(d) Number of shoplifting cases reported where the case was closed with no suspect identified in (i) 2022 (ii) between 01/01/2023 - 01/08/2023

3(a) Number of theft and robbery incidents which involved theft of a mobile phone in (i) 2022 (ii) between 01/01/2023 - 01/08/2023

3(b) In how many of these robbery incidents involving theft of a mobile phone was a suspect charged in (i) 2022? (ii) between 01/01/2023 - 01/08/2023?

3(c) How many of these robbery incidents involving theft of a mobile phone were closed with no suspect identified in (i) 2022? (ii) between 01/01/2023 - 01/08/2023?

Our Response:

1(a) & 1(b) - Crimes & Incidents by Reported date

2022 – Burglary residential 1300 crimes & incidents – 1137 attended

2023 (to Aug 23) – Residential Burglary of the home- 597 crimes & incidents – 585 attended

2023 (to Aug 23) – Burglary of an unconnected building 181 crimes & incidents – 153 attended

1(c) - Outcomes by Disposal Date

2022 – Burglary residential charged – 41

2023 (to Aug 23) – Residential Burglary of the home- – 28

2023 (to Aug 23) – Burglary of an unconnected building charged – 2

1(d) - Outcomes by Disposal Date

2022 – Burglary residential no suspect identified – 987

2023 (to Aug 23) – Residential Burglary of the home- -no suspect identified -490

2023 (to Aug 23) – Burglary of an unconnected building -no suspect identified -134

Prior to April 2023 Residential Burglary included thefts from sheds, garages and unconnected outbuildings. Once the NPCC pledge was made by all Forces to attend 100% of burglaries of a home, Burglary Residential was split into 2 crime offences - Residential Burglary of a Home & Burglary of an Unconnected Building .

Please note - Attended is any occurrence which has not been filed at first source. Filed at first source means no individual has attended the premises, however there will have been a desk investigation to determine if there is any opportunity for evidence to be collected eg CCTV/ doorbell camera etc prior to the closure decision being made.

2(a) & 2(b) Crimes & Incidents by Reported date

2022 – Shoplifting 3262 crimes & incidents – 2157 attended

2023 (to Aug 23) Shoplifting 2651 crimes & incidents – 1635 attended

2(c) - Outcomes by Disposal Date

2022 – Shoplifting charged – 692

2023 (to Aug 23) 2022 – Shoplifting charged – 522

2(d) - Outcomes by Disposal Date

2022 – Shoplifting - no suspect identified – 1272

2023 (to Aug 23) 2022 - no suspect identified – 1621

Please note - Often reports on shoplifting are called in after the perpetrator has left the shop. This is because staff don't wish to confront shoplifters and potentially provoke a violent response. We also see Shop owners not wishing to pursue charges, believing words of caution from the Police being enough to deter future shoplifting.

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3 (a), (b) & (c)

The information that you are requesting for the remainder of your request is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.

Wiltshire Police does not have a specific crime classification for mobile phone thefts, and therefore these offences are recorded under the general code for 'theft'. Additionally, we do not currently have the capability within our systems to specifically record information which may otherwise enable easier searches for information. This includes recording the specific property stolen (i.e. mobile phones), the details of which would be included within the crime report, victim / Officer statements, free text of the call log report etc.

To establish this information would require manually reviewing each occurrence recorded as 'Theft from the Person' and 'Other Theft' within the requested period to determine whether the occurrence related to a stolen mobile phone.

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