

**Police Headquarters**

London Road  
DEVIZES  
Wiltshire  
SN10 2DN

[disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk](mailto:disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk)

Date 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Our ref **FOI 2023/869**

Dear \*\*\*,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 concerning Police divisions.

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 HR, People Services Department, Finance and our Recruitment Unit 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:**

1. list of all territorial divisions in a year. I would like to only ask for divisions relating to a specific territory/region, not other police divisions/departments. For instance, I understand there're currently 8 community policing team areas.

2. name, functions, duties of relevant person responsible for each division in that year 3. when the person was appointed to this role, i.e: length of tenure for territorial division commander and Chief Supt responsible for the territorial division.

4. appointment process: (directly appointed by the Chief Constable, the Police and Crime Commissioner or any other person) I would like to ask for these information in the following years:

(1) the earliest available year, for instance 2014

(2) 2017

(2) the most recent available year.

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If the above three requests exceed the cost thresholds, I would like to just ask for:

- Names, ranks/functions of the relevant person responsible for each territorial division in a given year
- when the person was appointed to this role, i.e: length of tenure for territorial division commander and Chief Supt responsible for the territorial division.
- a brief summary of the appointment process for Chief Superintendents and the relevant responsible person (who they were appointed by).

### **Response:**

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

Please note I have been advised by several departments that this is a very confusing request, and it is not really clear what you are asking for. The data required in the request is far beyond what our people services unit can extract from our system, and it would take beyond 18 hours. With regards to having to go back to 2014, we currently do not have the capability within our systems to flag this information which can then be analysed quickly and easily. The ascertaining of this information would only be possible by going back into downloads from old obsolete systems and manual paperwork for each year to work out who was posted where.

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 and extracting it.

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.

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 below link to our website may assist you for part of question 1 and possibly 2. Please scroll down to "neighbourhoods in this Force area" when you click on each one this will provide you with further information.**

<https://www.police.uk/pu/your-area/wiltshire-police/>

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, I have asked for the business areas how this can be refined, and they have stated **"I think it is difficult to state how it can be refined as I'm not sure what they are asking for! I do feel that they need to be**

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**very specific around what it is they are looking for."** Therefore, 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 I apologise for the delay in answering your request.

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

**Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure**

**1. Who Can Ask for a Review**

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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](mailto: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.

## **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](mailto:mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk)

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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/>