



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

Date: 17th October 2023

Ref: FOI 2023/945

I write in connection with your request for information dated 29th September 2023 concerning Crimes in the last 6 months.

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:

For both September 2023 and the last 6 months (from March) in the Swindon area as well as the Wiltshire area, please may I have the following information:

Question 1-

How many arrests for knife-related crimes have been made?
How many charges for knife-related crimes have there been?
How many convictions for knife-related crimes have there been?

Within these answers please may I have specifics on the number of each type of knife-related crime for the arrests, charges and convictions?

Could I also receive a statement from the police on the findings of this FOI request?

Question 2 –

How many reported bike thefts have there been?
Where specifically in both the county and the town have they been?
How many arrests related to bike thefts have there been?
How many convictions relating to bike thefts have there been?

Could I also receive a statement from the police on the findings of this FOI request?

Question 3 –

How many reports of shoplifting have you received?
How many arrests have been made related to incidents of shoplifting?
How many convictions have been made related to incidents of shoplifting?

Could I also receive a statement from the police on the findings of this FOI request?

Question 4 –

How many kidnaps have been reported?
How many arrests relating to kidnapping have been made?
What were the motives?
How long were victims kidnapped for?

Could I also receive a statement from the police on the findings of this FOI request?

Question 5 –

How many times have the police been called to educational premises such as, schools, colleges, and universities?
What crimes were reported?
How many arrests were made?
If burglaries what was stolen?

Could I also receive a statement from the police on the findings of this FOI request?

Question 6 –

How many reports of domestic abuse?
How many arrests for domestic abuse?
How many convictions of domestic abuse?
How many are made during police patrols?

Could I also receive a statement from the police on the findings of this FOI request?

Question 7 –

How many reports of sex offences?
How many arrests for sex related offences?
How many convictions of sex offences?

Could I also receive a statement from the police on the findings of this FOI request?

Our response:

The information that you are requesting in Questions 4, 5 and 6 is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.

Whilst our Crime Recording system(s) are sophisticated and we have a number of fields in which information pertaining to a crime or incident is recorded (and can be searched), we do not have a specific field in which we record crimes by the location information you requested in Question 5.

The ascertaining of this information, as well as Questions 4(c), 4(d) and 6(d) would only be possible by physically reviewing and/or reading the Occurrence / Crime Record on our Niche database for the time period you require.

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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 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 –

Question 1-

How many arrests for knife-related crimes have been made?

- County 148
- Swindon 167

How many charges for knife-related crimes have there been?

- County 46
- Swindon 59

Within these answers please may I have specifics on the number of each type of knife-related crime for the arrests, charges and convictions?

Knife Related Arrest	County	Swindon
Assault	8	10
Arson endangering life	1	12
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (Sec 47)	22	0
Assault or assault by beating of a constable	1	0
Assault or assault by beating of an emergency worker (except a constable)	1	1
Attempt murder	1	1
Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	3	1
Common Assault and Battery	13	5
Engage in controlling/coercive behaviour in an intimate family relationship	1	0
Fear or provocation of violence (Sec 4)	4	2
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place	31	31
Having possession of a controlled drug - Cannabis	1	2
Having possession of a controlled drug - Other Class A drug	0	1
Having possession of a controlled drug - Other Class B drug	0	1
Having possession of a controlled drug - Class C drug	1	0
Murder of a person aged 1 year or older	1	2
Non-fatal strangulation and suffocation	2	0
Offence of possession of an offensive weapon in a private place	4	6
Other criminal damage to a residence (under £5000)	2	2
Other criminal damage to a vehicle (under £5000)	1	1
Other criminal damage, other (under £5000)	1	3

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Possessing firearm or imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence (except Shotgun/Air Weapons)	0	1
Possession of offensive weapon without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	1	9
Pursue course of conduct in breach of Sec 1 (1) which amounts to stalking	1	0
Racially or religiously aggravated wounding or grievous bodily harm (Sec 20)	1	0
Rape of a female aged 16 or over	0	3
Require person to perform forced or compulsory labour	1	0
Robbery personal	6	25
Sexual assault on a female aged 13 or over	3	2
Stalking involving fear of violence	1	0
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug - Other Class A drug	0	4
Theft by an employee	1	0
Theft from shops and stalls	1	0
TEW offences: Money laundering, terrorist financing and transfer of funds (information on the payer) Regs 2017	0	3
Threaten a person with a blade or sharply pointed article in a private place	2	2
Threaten a person with an offensive weapon/substance in a private place	2	0
Threaten with a blade or sharply pointed article in a public place	2	6
Threaten with an offensive weapon in a public place	1	1
Threats to destroy or damage property	0	1
Threats to kill	10	11
Wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm (Sec 18)	16	19

Question 2 –

How many reported bike thefts have there been?

- County 157
- Swindon 250

Where specifically in both the county and the town have they been?

- Amesbury
- Atworth
- Bowerhill
- Bulford
- Burbage
- Calne
- Chippenham
- Corsham
- Cricklade
- Devizes
- Downton
- Edington
- Hilperton
- Kilminster
- Laverstock
- Little Durnford

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- Melksham
- Mere
- Pewsey
- Rowde
- Royal Wootton Bassett
- Salisbury
- Stanton St Bernard
- Stratford Sub Castle
- Swindon
- Trowbridge
- Warminster
- Westbury
- Whiteparish
- Wilton

How many arrests related to bike thefts have there been?

- County 6
- Swindon 18

Question 3 –

How many reports of shoplifting have you received?

- County 1351
- Swindon 1404

How many arrests have been made related to incidents of shoplifting?

- County 216
- Swindon 441

Question 4 –

How many kidnaps have been reported?

- County 2
- Swindon 3

How many arrests relating to kidnapping have been made?

- County 0
- Swindon 0

Question 6 –

How many reports of domestic abuse?

- County 4747
- Swindon 3315

How many arrests for domestic abuse?

- County 1223
- Swindon 858

Question 7 –

How many reports of sex offences?

- County 661
- Swindon 417

How many arrests for sex related offences?

- County 168
- Swindon 152

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Please note the following –

Conviction data: Wiltshire Police does not hold data on convictions. Please refer your query to the Crown Prosecution Service.

Statement on the findings within this FOI request: Wiltshire Police are not obligated to create data for the purposes of FOI. We can only provide information which is already available within the force.

Ordinarily under our Section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you how to refine your request in respect of Questions 5, 4(c), 4(d) and 6(d) to a more manageable level. However, due to the difficulties outlined above, I cannot see how this can be achieved for Questions 5, 4(d) and 6(d) as it would require us to manually review each crime report to see if the information is held. Whilst we could manually check reports for 4(c), as no crimes were committed the motives for any suspected kidnapping would be speculation and not something known to Wiltshire Police.

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