

WILTSHIRE POLICE



Via email



Police Headquarters

London Road

DEVIZES

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

Date 10/11/2023

Our ref FOI 2023/1016

Reply contact name is:

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information, dated 20/10/2023 concerning shoplifting / theft.

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, searches were conducted with the Business Intelligence team of Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and it is not possible to meet your requirements in full.

You wrote:

1. How many offences of shoplifting/theft from shops has your force recorded in each month of 2022 and 2023 to date?
2. Please break these down by category of item stolen in each month ie groceries 250 / electrical 100 / jewellery 25
3. If you record the value of items stolen, please list the top five highest value thefts
4. If possible please list the top five retailers where the offences took place in each year ie Tesco 1000 / Aldi 750
5. How old was the a) youngest and b) oldest suspect your force arrested or otherwise dealt with in regard to shoplifting
6. For each of 2022 and 2023 to date, please provide a breakdown of outcomes for shoplifting ie 300 charged / 25 cautioned / 10 PND

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Response:

Q1 - How many offences of shoplifting/theft from shops has your force recorded in each month of 2022 and 2023 to date?

Reported Month Year/Crime Sub Group	Occurrences
Jan-2022	221
Feb-2022	244
Mar-2022	232
Apr-2022	233
May-2022	296
Jun-2022	241
Jul-2022	298
Aug-2022	299
Sep-2022	256
Oct-2022	318
Nov-2022	356
Dec-2022	268
Jan-2023	339
Feb-2023	330
Mar-2023	411
Apr-2023	375
May-2023	411
Jun-2023	317
Jul-2023	471
Aug-2023	402
Sep-2023	362

For questions 2, 3 and 4 please see the following exemption:

The type of information you require is not stored in a way which allows for easy retrieval. When recording a crime of shoplifting, Wiltshire Police do not have a specific field in which to indicate the value, retailers or category. To establish these points, we would need to manually peruse all relevant crime reports within the timeframe given. 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. Therefore the whole of the request falls under the exemption of section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Ordinarily under our Section 16 obligation to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you of a way to refine your request to a more manageable level. However, due to the difficulties in obtaining the requested information, as outlined above, I cannot think of a way in which this could be achieved.

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Q5 - How old was the a) youngest and b) oldest suspect your force arrested or otherwise dealt with in regard to shoplifting?

The reported age of the youngest suspect arrested for shoplifting between reported dates - 1st January 2022 - 30th September 2023 is 11 years old.

The reported age of the oldest suspect arrested for shop lifting between reported dates - 1st January 2022 - 30th September 2023 is 74 years old.

Q6 - For each of 2022 and 2023 to date, please provide a breakdown of outcomes for shoplifting ie 300 charged / 25 cautioned / 10 PND

Detection Status	Total
1: Charged/Summoned	1261
10: Police - formal action not in public interest	16
11: Named suspect below age of criminal responsibility	2
12: Named suspect too ill to prosecute	15
14: Victim declines/unable to support action to identify offender	26
15: CPS/Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	446
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	366
17: Suspect identified but prosecution time limit expired	1
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified	3795
2: Youth caution	3
21: Police - named suspect, investigation not in the public interest	48
22: Diversionary, educational or intervention activity, resulting from crime reports, has been undertaken and is not in the public interest to take any further action.	10
3: Adult caution	26
4: TIC (taken into consideration)	4
5: Offender has died	2
8: Community resolution/Youth restorative disposal	73
Cancelled/transferred to another county	276
New	309
Other incident non crime	1

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.

Exemption 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.

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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.



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.

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

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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/>