

**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 E Mail

Date: 24th November 2023

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2023 / 1129

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 23rd November 2023 concerning Knife Crimes.

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 – having consulted our Business Performance Team - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote (and Our Response) :

Please could you confirm the total number of knife crimes between 1 November 2020 to 1 November 2023?

1,464

Please can this data be broken down by area?

I would like you to provide this information in PDF format if possible please

The table below documents the crimes recorded by Wiltshire Police in the time period you require, broken down by the Town where the crime was reported and which Community Policing Team (CPT) dealt with it.

Please refer to the notes that are provided after the table which clarify and also caveat the data being provided to you.

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Town	Crime Volume and the CPT (Community Policing Team) that dealt with it							
	Amesbury	Chippenham	Devizes	Royal Wootton Bassett	Salisbury	Swindon	Trowbridge	Warminster
ALDBOURNE			3					
ALDERBURY					1			
AMESBURY	13							
ANDOVER	2							
ASHTON KEYNES				1				
AVEBURY TRUSLOE			0					
AVONCLIFF							1	
AXFORD			1					
BISHOPDOWN					1			
BISHOPSTONE					1			
BOURNEMOUTH	1							
BOWERHILL							3	
BOX		1						
BRADFORD ON AVON							7	
BRATTON								2
BRISTOL								1
BROAD CHALKE					1			
BROMHAM			2					
BROUGHTON GIFFORD							1	
BULFORD	1							
BULFORD CAMP	1							
CALNE		26						
CASTLE COMBE		1						
CHIPPENHAM		57						
CHITTERNE								1
CHOLDERTON	1							
CHUTE FOREST	1							
COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS	1							
COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON	2							
COOMBE BISSETT					2			
CORSHAM		14						
CORSLEY								1
CRICKLADE				3				
DEVIZES			36					
DILTON MARSH								1
DOWNTON					4			
DRAYCOT CERNE		2						
DURRINGTON	4							
EASTON GREY				0				
ENFORD	0							
ERLESTOKE			2					
FARLEY					1			
FORD					1			
GREAT DURNFORD	0							
GREAT WISHFORD	1							
HAWTHORN		1						
HEYWOOD								1
HILPERTON							15	
HINDON								1
HULLAVINGTON		2						
KINGTON ST MICHAEL		0						
LARKHILL	3							
LAVERSTOCK					4			
LEA				1				
LITTLE CHEVERELL			1					
LONGHEDGE					3			
LOWER CHUTE	0							
LOWER WESTWOOD							0	
LUCKINGTON				1				
LUDGERSHALL	7							
LYDIARD TREGOZE				1				
MAIDEN BRADLEY								1
MALMESBURY				5				
MARKET LAVINGTON			1					
MARLBOROUGH	0		17					
MELKSHAM							38	
MERE								3
MILBOURNE				1				
NULL			0					
OAKSEY				1				
OGBOURNE ST GEORGE			2					
OLD SARUM					5			
PEWSEY			2					
POTTERNE			1					
PURTON				4				
RAMSBURY			0					
RATFORD		0						
REDLYNCH					2			
ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT				12		1		
SALISBURY	5				114			1
SEEND							1	
SEMINGTON							2	
SHERSTON				1				
SHREWTON	1							
SOUTHWICK							3	
STANLEY		1						
STAVERTON							1	
STOURTON								0
SWINDON			1	6		801		
TIDWORTH	15							
TILSHEAD	1							
TISBURY								1
TROWBRIDGE							118	
UPAVON			0					
UPPER MINETY				1				
WARMINSTER								21
WEST KINGTON		1						
WEST LAVINGTON			2					
WESTBURY								18
WILTON					0			
WINTERBOURNE GUNNER	1							
ZEALS								3

Please Note

- The information in the above table refers to crimes recorded by Wiltshire Police where the “Weapon Used” flag on our systems states a knife. This field is non-mandatory and subject to manual error – as a consequence, if a knife was used in a crime but this flag was not populated, then the crime would not feature in the above results. Similarly, if a gun was used but the flag was set to knife by mistake, the crime would be recorded in the above data in error.
- The only way definitively to determine if a knife was used in a crime would be to many read each and every individual crime log for the period you require. Given that Wiltshire Police record in excess of 40,000 crime in a given calendar year this would undeniably exempt a response to you under Section 12 of the FOIA due to time-costs.
- The information in the above table records the Town where the crime occurred. It should be noted that there are a number in the table which are locations out of our immediate Force Area. These will relate to calls for Service to support other Forces, crimes where perpetrators were apprehended across the border, the serving of warrants on individuals that may live in Wiltshire but were located outside of the County, etc.
- The information provided in the above table will differ to the Knife Crime Data provided on Annual Data Returns to the Home Office by Wiltshire Police. The Annual Data returns submitted to the Home Office exclude certain crime types (they focus for instance on violent offences and exclude certain other crimes such as burglary, etc). The above table documents all crimes recorded in Wiltshire where a knife has been recorded as being used.
- As with any data that that is subject to manual processing and input of data, there is always potential for that data to have been recorded incorrectly.

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