



Police Headquarters
London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN
disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

Date 06/12/2023

Your ref:

Our ref: FOI 2023/1163

Reply contact name is:

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information, dated 04/12/2023 concerning mobile phone thefts.

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 the Business Intelligence department of Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

You wrote:

I am writing to formally request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. My enquiry concerns the statistics on mobile phone thefts within your jurisdiction over the following periods:

1. November 2021 – November 2022
2. November 2022 – November 2023

Specifically, I would like to request the following details:

- *The total number of mobile phones reported stolen in each of the specified time frames.*
- *A breakdown of these incidents by location. Ideally, this would include the specific areas or neighbourhoods where these thefts were most prevalent.*
- *If possible, a categorization of the types of phones stolen (e.g., smartphone brands or models).*

Proud to serve and protect our communities

Response:

Unfortunately, theft data is not categorised by item, meaning the search would involve each theft case in order to determine the specific item. Therefore, we are unable to obtain the data that you have requested relating specifically to mobile phone thefts within our obligations.

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.

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

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