



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

Date: 19/12/2023

Ref: FOI 2023/1174

Dear XXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 8th December concerning dispersal orders.

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 I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

You wrote:

Please could I have a breakdown of the following information.

In the years: 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 202, 2022, 2023 (January to September 1)

How many times in your force area has a dispersal order under section 34 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 been ordered?

Our response:

The information that you are requesting is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval. When recording a crime, Wiltshire Police do not have a specific field in which to indicate that the occurrence may have resulted in a dispersal order. In order to ascertain whether a dispersal order was mentioned in relation to an occurrence, we would need to manually peruse all occurrences reported within the requested time period to determine whether they are relevant to your request.

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.

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, 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 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