



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

Date: 19/12/2023

Ref: FOI 2023/1199

Dear XXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 19th December concerning illegal sports streams.

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:

I am interested in data regarding the illegal streaming of sports in the UK. For your police force, I would like to know:

1. How many people were cautioned for viewing illegal streams in the years of 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, & 2023?
2. How many people were given penalty notices for viewing illegal streams in the years of 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, & 2023?
3. How many people were arrested for viewing illegal streams in the years of 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, & 2023?
4. How many people were cautioned for distributing / supplying illegal streaming services in the years of 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, & 2023?
5. How many people were given penalty notices for distributing / supplying illegal streaming services in the years of 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, & 2023?
6. How many people were arrested for distributing / supplying illegal streaming services in the years of 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, & 2023?
7. For questions 4, 5 & 6, how many people were supplying illegal streams digitally?
8. For questions 4, 5, & 6, how many people were supplying illegal streams through 'dodgy boxes' / 'firesticks'?

I would like to receive this information in excel format, with the data split up into the years I requested.

As stated, I am mostly concerned with those given cautions, penalty notices, & arrested for viewing / supplying sports streams, so if you can distinguish this in the data you provide me compared to other illegal streaming, that would be great.

Our response:

The information that you are requesting is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval. This is because illegal streaming does not have a specific crime code on our system. Therefore, in order to ascertain whether a caution was given due to illegal sports streaming, we would have to go into each individual occurrence on our system to determine whether this is related to the matter in question.

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

Proud to serve and protect our communities