

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXXXXXXX
By email

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

Date 18th January 2024

Our Ref FOI 2024-069

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 15th January 2024, concerning machete offences.

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 at Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and I am able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

1. For the months of November and December 2023 how many crimes were logged by your force where a machete was recorded as being an element in the offence? [Note: I would hope that this could be achieved by a computer search on the MO of crimes for the words "machete" or variants of the spelling to include "machette" and "machetes".]
2. Please provide me with a table showing a breakdown of the crimes from Question 1 that are 'linked' to machete/s by its mention in the MO.
3. Taking the month of December 2023 please provide me with copies of the first 5 MOs that mention machetes. [Note: To avoid falling into an exemption I am content for names, ages, geography or any other personal detail to be redacted].

Our response:

Please note:

- ❖ This data was obtained by completing a summary search for the terms "machete", "machette" and "machetes". The results of these types of searches may be unreliable and inaccurate as only the summary field of the report is searched. If these terms are contained elsewhere (i.e. within the call log, crime report, statements etc) these will not be returned in the results. Additionally, if the term is misspelt within the summary field, this will not be returned. To provide accurate results would require a manual search of each crime within the specified timeframe to deem if they were relevant to your request.

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- ❖ The summaries provided have been sanitised of personal data to allow for the summaries to be disclosed without engaging section 40 of the FOIA (personal data).

Question 1 & Question 2

Offence	Nov	Dec	Grand Total
Affray	-	1	1
Fear or provocation of violence (Sec 4)	2	-	2
Harassment	1	-	1
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place	2	1	3
Offence of possession of an offensive weapon in a private place	1	-	1
Possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply - Other Class A drug	1	-	1
Residential burglary of unconnected building	1	-	1
Sending letters etc. with intent to cause distress or anxiety	-	1	1
Threats to kill	1	-	1
Grand Total	9	3	12

Question 3

1. Officers have attended report of male walking around the street with a machete. Male located next to his vehicle and machete and knife located. MALE arrested for Blade in Public then further arrested for failing Roadside Breath Test.
2. Known female youth has sent messages to IP telling her to kill herself and has said she will get her brother who used to carry a machete to beat up IP and her family. This has caused great distress to IP who was already feeling suicidal.
3. MACHETE SEEN

3 Males spotted with a machete on bikes, descriptions given and area search completed and one male was stopped and searched.

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

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



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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 Fol 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

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 to contact them, please visit <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>

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