

WILTSHIRE POLICE



Via Email



Police Headquarters

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

Date 02/02/2024

Our ref FOI 2024/1064

Reply contact name is:

Dear *****,

I write in connection with your request for information, dated 03/11/2023, concerning strip searches.

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, searches were conducted with custody unit of Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and it is not possible to meet your requirements in full.

You wrote:

Please provide data on intimate searches and strip searches.

For the past five years please tell me:

- How many intimate searches the force has carried out each year
- How many strip searches there have been
- Grounds for search, grouped by suspected offence for each year
- Average ages of those searched, by year
- Number of children searched, broken down by year and intimate or strip search
- Youngest person searched each year
- Oldest person searched each year
- How many people with mental health problems were searched (if possible within time constraints)

Response:

Some of the information that you have requested is not easily retrievable and would take over the time / cost limitations. Ordinarily if any part of a request triggers a S.12 response,

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this should apply to the whole request, however I am able to supply some of the information and I hope this is helpful.

For 'Intimate searches', 'Grounds for search', 'Youngest and Oldest searched', 'Mental health problems' Wiltshire police would have to go into each individual record to discover this information manually. Due to the definitions used for intimate searches, even giving someone a change of clothes (because for example, their clothes were wet upon arrival in custody) would count as an intimate search. The grounds for searches are held within each individuals record and is not easily retrievable. The systems used record only whether a person is an adult or a juvenile, not their specific ages, again, finding the youngest / oldest person searched would require a manual search of each record. There is no specific field in which to indicate that a person is suffering from mental health issues, only that they may be classed as a vulnerable person. While we may be able to provide vulnerable person figures, this would cover all vulnerabilities such as physical disabilities or learning difficulties as well as possible mental health issues.

Please see the following tables for the data that I am able to provide:

2019	Total	Adult	Juvenile
January	43	38	5
February	30	26	4
March	58	50	8
April	48	42	6
May	49	46	3
June	64	53	11
July	54	46	8
August	67	50	16
September	57	49	8
October	61	54	7
November	34	33	1
December	36	31	5
Total	601	519	82

2020	Total	Adult	Juvenile
January	59	53	6
February	28	24	4
March	40	33	7
April	51	41	10
May	46	40	6
June	50	39	11
July	43	39	4
August	23	21	2
September	32	28	4
October	52	40	12
November	34	26	8
December	32	21	11
Total	490	405	85

2021	Total	Adult	Juvenile
January	29	27	2
February	22	18	4
March	33	31	2
April	26	25	1
May	39	38	1
June	36	31	4
July	29	27	2
August	28	25	3
September	22	19	3
October	41	41	0
November	35	31	4
December	21	19	2
Total Av	26	28	2
Total	387	330	30

2022	Total	Adult	Juvenile
January	29	27	2
February	27	26	1
March	33	31	2
April	20	18	2
May	31	28	3
June	11	11	0
July	39	37	2
August	20	20	0
September	35	34	1
October	28	24	4
November	25	21	4
December	14	12	2

2023	Total	Adult	Juvenile
January	19	16	3
February	24	24	0
March	21	19	2
April	21	21	0
May	22	21	1
June	24	21	3
July	5	5	0
August	23	21	2
September	18	18	0
October	20	17	3
November	19	18	1
December	24	23	1

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Wiltshire Police, when refusing to provide information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with Proud to serve and protect our communities

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. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice for those aspects of your request.

Exemption applied:

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.

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.



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 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:

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