

**Police Headquarters**

London Road

DEVIZES

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk**Date** 5th February 2024**Our ref:** FOI 2024/066

I write in connection with your request for information, dated 14/01/2024 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:

1) Please can you state for theft offences recorded by your force, the number in which the crime report text (described as modus operandi reports by many forces) contains a mention of "mobile phone" and/or "smartphone" in each of the following calendar years:

- i) 2019
- ii) 2020
- iii) 2021
- iv) 2022
- v) 2023

2) Please can you provide a redacted copy of the free text crime reports for these offences recorded by your force in between October and December 2023.

Response:

Question 1

A wild card search was conducted for the words 'mobile phone' and 'smartphone' within our system, please see the below results.

Year	Mobile Phone	Smartphone	Total
2019	265	0	265
2020	134	0	134
2021	108	0	108
2022	144	2	145
2023	148	0	148
Total	1107	2	1108

As you may be aware, wildcard searches are not necessarily the most reliable way of searching for information. This is because the system searches for particular words within the summary of the incident and no further. Therefore, please do bear in mind that there may have been other incidences involving 'mobile phone' and 'smartphone' in some way, that might not have been mentioned in the summary of the occurrence but within the crime report itself, for example. And as a result of this, any other incidences involving 'mobile phone' and 'smartphone' would not have been picked up by our systems.

Question 2

October 2023

- Unknown suspect has stolen IP's mobile phone that he left at the side of the pitch while he was playing football.
- Unknown male has been invited in to IP's home to purchase a mobile phone after responding to an ad on Gum Treet Whilst there, asked IP to get his bank details for payment, whilst IP was out of room, male left the property with the phone.
- Unknown suspect has stolen the IP's mobile phone from a padlocked locker whilst the IP was using the swimming pool at the gym. Stolen phone is Samsung Galaxy S23 black and in a black cover
- Unknown suspect has stolen IP's mobile phone from her handbag which had been left on a wall nearby
- Unknown suspect/s have stolen the IP's mobile phone
- Unknown person has stolen IP's rucksack from outside front door of home address, inside was the IP's wallet with ID's and bank card with cash, passport, Sat Nav and mobile phone. The unknown person has then used one of the stolen cards to purchase goods in several local shops. The iphone was recovered by the IP found discarded behind a street light.
- IP has had his mobile phone on his desk at school and at the end of the lesson when he was packing away he realised it was missing therefore presumed stolen.
- After the IP left her mobile phone on a ride whilst at the MOP an unknown suspect has picked it up and have stolen it. Property - iPhone 14 Max
- RP was at the Community Campus in Melksham from 15.30 to 15.45 then drove to Devizes, at 17.00 RP noticed his mobile phone was missing. RP phones the Commnuity Campus to see if any one had handed it in, but they had not. RP'S mobile phone was a Samsung Flip 4
- Unknown female suspect has found a Samsung mobile phone within Tesco's supermarket belonging to the Aggrieved she has then stolen the phone by leaving the store without handing it in to Customer services. Stolen item - Samsung mobile phone

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- After being dismissed from his job known male has withheld company property. He has failed to return them when asked and has not answered his door when his address was visited. Items include keys to van and office, company mobile phone which he has continued to use, company fuel cards and various electrical tools including battery drills and impact drivers."
- Suspect has pushed the IP's bike to distract him. Suspect has then reached into IP's left pocket and taken his mobile phone.

November 2023

- RP has left her mobile phone in a changing room, on realising and returning to the changing room the phone has been taken.
- Known female has stolen IP's bank card and utilised her mobile phone to transfer a number of transactions to her own account. Known Female has also taken IP's iPhone Pro 4 and refused to return it to a specified deadline.
- Unknown suspect has stolen IP mobile phone from his pocket.
- Known male has come to his ex-partner's home and she has let him in. He has then stolen her mobile phone.
- Unknown suspect has gained access to the IP's locker whilst he was using the gym. Suspect has stolen the IP's wallet containing bank cards and cash. His mobile phone and ID.
- Known female suspect has stolen a Nokia mobile phone from the IP.
- Unknown suspect has stolen IP's mobile phone which possibly fell out of his pocket
- Known suspect has stolen the IP's mobile phone which is linked to her Pacemaker,
- IP has witnessed a suspect headbut a window to a business and detained the suspect. Whilst trying to call 999- the IP has been punched to the face and then had his mobile phone grabbed by the suspect. Suspect made off and located short time later by officers and arrested for C/Assault and Theft.
- Unknown person has stolen a mobile phone inside a case which also contained a debit card and drivers licence. Mobile phone handed in at Asda but cards still missing.
- Unknown suspect has left a bowl of urine in a bowl in the IP's kitchen. IP has also disclosed that medication and a mobile phone has gone missing. This happened whilst a friend was staying at the address.
- Unknown suspect has stolen IP's mobile phone that he dropped while he was on the bus.
- Police have attended and it has been disclosed brother of IP has taken his mobile phone after a verbal only incident
- Known suspects are said to have made threats to the IP and have stolen her mobile phone.
- Unknown suspect has stolen RP's mobile phone from their pocket.

December 2023

- Unknown male suspects have called IP over and asked him to empty his pockets, IP told them he had nothing but one said to Empty them anyway or he would hit him, IP emptied his pockets and males took IP's mobile phone before IP ran Off.
- Female suspect was seen going through people's pockets in the pub. Suspect stole a mobile phone which she later answered when IP rang the number.
- Known Male Suspect has stolen a mobile phone from the school. The IP had handed the phone over to the school to look after and prevent the IP from being distracted during lessons. CCTV has captured the incident and suspect. Property: Samsung Galaxy Phone Black
- Unknown suspect has stolen the RP's mobile phone out of her back pocket.

- Whilst sat on a bench with 5month old baby-the IP was approached by an unknown female who asked if she could take a photo of the baby.The female then spent a couple of mins trying to sort out best position for the photo.Then 2 males came over and stood next to IP and began talking with the female about the photo. After they walked off -IP realised her mobile phone was missing from top of the baby stroller along with bank cards,cash and D/Licence.
- Unknown suspect has stolen the IP's mobile phone which she had left unattended on the bar at a public house. PROPERTY - iPhone 13
- The IP's daughter took his mobile phone and used his online banking to transfer into her bank account without permission before smashing the phone up.

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



The 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

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.

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