

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.ukdisclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

XXXXXX – by email

Date: 22nd February 2024

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2024 / 171

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 10th February 2024 concerning Overseas Training Provided by Wiltshire Police and the Acquisition of Law Enforcement Equipment and Weapons.

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:

1. Training conducted by Wiltshire Police to law enforcement officials of third countries

We would be grateful if you could provide a list of all the places of detention, police forces, security forces and military forces from non-UK countries to which Wiltshire Police personnel have provided training, from 1st January 2019 till 31st December 2023.

Please provide details on the foreign entity listed to receive the training, the dates of the training conducted and details of the training provided. Please specify for any training involving the use of equipment, the type of law enforcement equipment and weapons (e.g. handcuffs, leg restraints, other restraints (please identify), Taser, chemical irritant sprays, batons, launchers firing single kinetic impact projectiles, launchers firing multiple kinetic impact projectiles etc.) that the foreign law enforcement officials were being trained in.

Please disaggregate this data according to training provided by calendar year.

Please also highlight whether such training has been conducted in the UK or in a third country.

Please provide all information in a machine-readable format.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

2. Acquisition of law enforcement equipment and weapons by Wiltshire Police

We would be grateful if you could provide details of the law enforcement equipment and weapons that has been acquired by Wiltshire Police from 1st January 2019 till 31st December 2023.

Please specify the type of law enforcement equipment and weapons acquired during this period (e.g. handcuffs, leg restraints, other restraints (please identify), Taser, chemical irritant sprays, batons, less lethal launchers, single kinetic impact projectiles, multiple kinetic impact projectiles etc.); the date or dates of the acquisition of each equipment/weapon type; the amount (i.e. number of items) and cost (in pounds sterling) of each equipment/weapon acquisition; the purposes for which each equipment/weapon type was acquired and the company/country from the equipment/weapon was acquired.

Please disaggregate this data according to training provided by calendar year.

Our response:

The information that you are requesting for Q2 of your request is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.

Wiltshire Police obtain law enforcement equipment and weapons from a number of different suppliers and via a number of different methods :-

- Direct purchases are made (and recorded) in our general Revenue Accounting systems.
- Some equipment is supplied as part of an agreed contract (essentially being replaced free of charge if issues arise) – records of this would be held in our Capital Accounting Systems.
- Certain consumables are supplied by (for instance) outside establishments such as Black Rock Policing Training Centre and effectively recharged to Forces including Wiltshire.

Our Procurement Team(s) do not keep structured records of the numbers or cost of specific types of equipment that are purchased / ordered as they are not the only Team(s) placing orders for equipment – certain Department Heads also have that direct Authority.

Our accounting software system(s) are used to record generic invoice detail (date, supplier, invoice number, overall value, cost centre etc) but not the specific individual breakdown of items that have been supplied on an individual invoice.

The ascertaining of the information you are requesting in question 2 would only be possible by undertaking the following tasks :-

- Locating and reviewing each and every invoice (from every specific supplier) that meets your criteria and make a note of the details on it (item, quantity and cost) and creating new records of the data
- We would also need to review all of the designated Capital Expenditure documentation for the time period you require to ascertain what has been supplied and in what quantities
- We would also need to review every instance where equipment has been supplied but been subject to or offset as part of a recharging program

I have been advised by our Finance Manager that the above task would not only take many weeks to achieve and – as such - 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.

Please also note that if any one part of a request engages a Section 12 response, then the whole request will engage a Section 12 response. The reason is due to the fact that locating, retrieving and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations.

It should also be noted that under the FOIA there is no obligation on an Authority to create information (where none exists currently) simply to answer an FOI request.

Ordinarily under our section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you how to refine your request in respect of question 2 to a more manageable level. However, due to the difficulties outlined above, I cannot see how this can be achieved in this particular case.

However, under that same section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance I am happy to provide the following additional information :-

The website for the OPCC for Wiltshire contains a wealth of financial information that can be accessed and downloaded by members of the public, such as

Statements of accounts by year
Budget book for the forthcoming financial year
Details on contracts and tenders
Breakdowns by month of individual payments made over £500
etc

The link to this section of the OPCC website is as follows :-

www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk/how-we-do-it/how-your-money-is-spent/

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,

Nick Penny
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
Telephone 101 ext 62005

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.pnn.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:

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