

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXXXX – Via email



Police Headquarters

London Road

DEVIZES

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

Date: 15th April 2024

Our ref: 2024-270

Reply contact name:

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 3rd March 2024 regarding accidents at Ashley Crossroads on A363, near Bradford-on-Avon.

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 Justice Traffic at Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and I am unable to provide a full response.

You wrote:

I wondered if you would be able to send me an updated list of accidents for the same place (Ashley crossroads on the A363, near Bradford on Avon) to include the most recent accidents

So accidents over the last 20 years up to the current day if possible (or whatever time period you can provide)

Our response:

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at s1(1)(a) is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held. The second duty at s1(1)(b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held.

Whilst I can confirm Wiltshire Police do hold the requested information, section 12(1) of the FOIA states: -

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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.

With regards to non-injury road traffic accidents or collisions, the requested information is not stored in a way which permits for easy retrieval. This information is held for crime and incident recording on our main systems; however, we do not hold mandatory grid references or road marker information on these reports, which means we are unable to locate incidents that occur at a specific location in the way that we would for injury collisions. In order to retrieve the data that you are looking for, we would be required to manually peruse every road traffic accident and collision report to determine whether the location of this is relevant to your request.

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. Therefore, the whole of the request should fall under the exemption of section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please note:

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

Forces may use different recording systems, therefore it may be possible some Forces can provide this information where others cannot.

Although excess cost removes the Forces' obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request. What I can provide you with is documented below:

Due to the importance of incidents regarding road traffic accidents or collisions where a physical injury has occurred, the information you are requesting is recorded and stored on an individual database where we are able to search these incidents by grid reference and respective roadside markers. I have provided this information to you below.

Please note, that our Justice Traffic Team only hold injury-collision data up to and including September 2023. There is currently a significant backlog in respect of the processing and adding of information onto our systems due to a combination of the effects of the COVID Pandemic and resourcing issues within the Team.

Date	Time	Vehicles	Weather	Road	Description
16/01/2023	18:39	2	Fine without high winds	Frost/ice	V1(CAR) TRAV SE. V2(CAR) TRAV SE. V2 HAS SLOWED AND V1 HAS FAILED TO STOP DUE TO ICEY CONDITIONS. V1 HAS STRUCK FRONT WITH V2 REAR

16/02/2023	10:38	2	Fine without high winds	Dry	V1(CAR) TRAV SE. V2(VAN) TRAV NW. V1 HAS PULLED OUT OF JCT INTO PATH OF V2. V2 HAS COLLIDED FRONT WITH V1 O/S
11/05/2023	20:25	2	Fine without high winds	Dry	V1(CYCLE) TRAV N. V2(VAN) TRAV NW. V1 HAS PULLED OUT OF JCT AND COLLIDED FRONT WITH V2 N/S
28/08/2023	21:01	2	Fine without high winds	Dry	V1(VAN) TRAV SE. V2(CAR) TRAV NW. V1 HAS PULLED OUT OF JCT INTO PATH OF V2. V2 HAS COLLIDED FRONT WITH V1 O/S

	Fatal	Serious	Slight	Total
Motor vehicles only (excluding 2-wheels)	0	0	3	3
2-wheeled motor vehicles	0	0	0	0
Pedal cycles	0	0	1	1
Horses & other	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	4	4

	Fatal	Serious	Slight	Total
Vehicle Driver	0	0	3	3
Passenger	0	0	0	0
Motorcycle rider	0	0	0	0
Cyclist	0	0	1	1
Pedestrian	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	4	4

The information for this request prior to June 2022 was provided within our previous response on this subject. This information can be located via the following link: [foi-2023-077-accidents-at-ashley-crossroads-on-a363.pdf \(wiltshire.police.uk\)](https://www.wiltshire.police.uk/foi-2023-077-accidents-at-ashley-crossroads-on-a363.pdf)

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires 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.

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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.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss the withheld information.

Yours sincerely

Force Disclosure Decision Maker