

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXXX -By email

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

Date: 11th March 2024

Our Ref FOI 2024-289

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 6th March 2024, concerning doormen, security staff and bouncers.

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:

Could you please supply me with the following information concerning police incidents involving doormen, bouncers, and security staff, as outlined below.

A. How many times were police called to incidents in bars and clubs in Salisbury City Centre between 2019-2023?

B. Of these, how many were recorded as against or involving bouncers / doormen? If possible, please break down the data annually.

C. For question A, of these incidents, how many resulted in charges filed against bouncers/door staff?

D. Are there any ongoing training programs or initiatives aimed at preventing misconduct among door/security staff in the years 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023?

E. Do you have a procedure to feedback data on incidents to local licensing authorities?

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.

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

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..

The information that you are requesting is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval. For each of these questions related to bouncers, security or door staff, we currently do not have the capability within our system(s) to flag information on individuals to determine their occupation which can then be analysed quickly and easily. The ascertaining of this information would only be possible by physically reading every call log and crime report made in relation to each crime class over the time period requested in order to determine if the suspect was in fact a bouncer/door staff.

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.

Under our Section 16 obligation to provide advice and assistance we may advise you of a way to refine your request to a more manageable level. In this instance, if you refine your request to only question A, then we may be able to retrieve this data should you provide us with the addresses of the bars and clubs that you would like the information to be provided on. Please note, retrieval of data for specific addresses may return unreliable data, as there may be other relevant information that does not get picked up under the specific address searches.

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.

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,

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

