



Force Disclosure Unit
Wiltshire Police HQ
London Road
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN
Tel 101 ext 62005
www.wiltshire.police.uk
disclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

XXXXXX – by E Mail

Date: 2nd May 2024

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2024 / 380

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 9th April 2024 concerning Firearms Officers.

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 – having consulted our Special Operations, HR and Business Performance Teams - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote (and Our Response) :

- 1) The total number (headcount) of firearms officers employed by the force as of:
 - a) 31 March 2022
 - b) 31 March 2023
 - c) 31 March 2024

The answer to Q1 of your request is exempt under Section 21 of the FOIA (Information available to the applicant by other means).

All Police Forces submit an ADR (Annual Data Return) to the Home Office every year which details the number of Armed Officers it has in its' Force. The information you have requested is available via the following website :-

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-use-of-firearms-statistics-england-and-wales-april-2021-to-march-2022/police-use-of-firearms-statistics-england-and-wales-april-2021-to-march-2022

Section 5 on this website concerns Armed Officers. If you download Table 3 (a link is provided) this will allow you to view data for all Forces including ours.



2a) The number (headcount) of firearms officers who voluntarily surrendered their ticket/accreditation to carry firearms within the financial year 2022/23, but remained in service with the force

No Information Held

2b) For each instance, please list the month it was surrendered, the reason and whether the individual has since returned to holding a ticket/accreditation

No Information Held

3a) The number (headcount) of firearms officers who voluntarily surrendered their ticket/accreditation to carry firearms within the financial year 2023/24, but remained in service with the force

None

3b) For each instance, please list the month it was surrendered, the reason and whether the individual has since returned to holding a ticket/accreditation

Not applicable by virtue of the answer provided to 3a

NB These numbers should include all firearms officers, whether or not they are operationally deployable.

If one firearms officer happened to volunteer their ticket more than once in a financial year, please count this as one for questions 2a and 3a, but list the circumstances separately in questions 2b and 3b.

If the following request cannot be met within the cost limit, please provide me with advice and assistance on how I may refine my request.

With regards to Questions 2 (a and b), there is no obligation on an Authority to provide any reasons or rationale when providing a No Information Held response under the FOIA. However, in this case I am happy to provide the following additional context :-

- **Neither our HR or Special Operations (Firearms) Teams hold any information that can answer the above questions definitively.**
- **Our new Special Ops ARV Inspector has confirmed anecdotally that during Financial Year 2023/24 no one has handed in their firearms ticket willingly and gone to work elsewhere in the force. People have either left due to injury/medical conditions, been redeployed elsewhere or have been removed from the Organisation due to disciplinary proceedings.**

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 21: Information available to the applicant by another means

In accordance with section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this particular part of your 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 Fol 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