

WILTSHIRE POLICE



Via Email



Police Headquarters

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date 29/05/2024

Our ref **FOI 2024/464**

Reply contact name is:

Dear *****,

I write in connection with your request for information, dated 29/04/2024, concerning disposal and recycling of uniforms and police equipment.

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 it is not possible to meet your requirements in full.

You wrote:

Under the Freedom of Information Act and Environmental Information Regulations, I would like to request the following information:

Does your police force have a policy on the disposal/recycling of uniforms and items of police equipment supplied to police officers and staff? Please could you supply a copy of the relevant policies and procedures?

Do you have any commercial arrangements for the disposal/recycling of uniforms where this is carried out by a third party? If so, who is the third-party provider?

How are uniform items recycled or disposed of? For example, secure shredding, landfill, incineration, or recycled by a different method?

Please provide a copy of any disposal/recycling agreements/contracts with commercial third parties for uniforms and textiles.

What items of equipment is included in respect of the above?

What uniform items and equipment are purchased and supplied to your force via the National Uniform Managed Services (NUMS)? What is the unit cost for each individual item?

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Does your force have an end-of-life policy with respect to the disposal of uniforms via the National Uniform Managed Services (NUMS) or any other third party? If so, whom and what is the cost of this service per item/weight or other method specified? Could I have a copy of the end of the relevant policy or document(s)?

Does Wiltshire Police have a green/recycling policy(s)? Could you please provide a copy of the relevant green policies?

Response:

The organisation does not have a specific uniform disposal/recycling policy. There is also no policy relating to green/recycling practices.

– No Information Held.

South West Procurement have negotiated a contract with Shred-It, which is part of the wider Stericycle UK group, for the secure shredding and recycling of uniform items. Any metal items and body armour that Stericycle are unable to shred are removed by Grist Environmental for secure shredding and recycling. (There is no contract established with Grist. We use them on an ad-hoc basis)

We do not have a copy of the Shred-It / Stericycle contract.

Some end-of-life uniforms items are moved into 'non-stock', for use either within the organisation, or given to the Police Cadets.

Any end-of life items of PPE are shredded and recycled by Stericycle or Grist, as they could present a danger to the user if they fail to provide adequate protection.

We are not part of the NUMS contract.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Wiltshire Police, when refusing to provide 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. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice for those aspects of your request.

Exemption applied:

No Information Held.

Wiltshire Police would like to thank you for the interest that you have shown in the Force.

Yours sincerely,

Force Disclosure Decision Maker

Wiltshire Police offers a re-examination of your case under its review procedure.

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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.

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:

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

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/>