



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

Date: 31st May 2024

Ref: FOI 2024/487

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 3rd May 2024 concerning Forensic Collision Investigators.

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. How many qualified Forensic Collision Investigators have been held by your force annually from 2009 to the present? Please can the data be provided annually.
2. How many live crash scenes were attended by your force annually from 2009 to the present, and of these, how many were attended by a Forensic Collision Investigator? Please can the data be provided annually.
3. How many serious injury road traffic collision cases were investigated by FCI's annually from 2009 to the present? Please can the data be broken down annually.
4. How many fatal road traffic collision cases were investigated by FCIs annually from 2009 to the present? Please can the data be broken down annually.

Our response:

The information that you are requesting for part of your request (namely the first part of question 2) is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval. This is because there is not a field within our systems that we can search on that would enable us to extract the number of road traffic collisions (RTCs) that were attended and/or not attended by the force overall since 2009. Therefore, to know how many RTCs were attended by non-Forensic Collision Investigation Unit (FCIU) members, this would require a review of all RTC reports made since 2009 to confirm individually which reports were and were not attended.

Therefore, 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.

Please note, that 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.

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 am able to provide you are the answers documented below –

1. How many qualified Forensic Collision Investigators have been held by your force annually from 2009 to the present? Please can the data be provided annually.

Year	Number of Active FCI's on FCIU on 1st Jan of each year*
2009-2013	<i>Data unavailable – multi-discipline officers</i>
2014-2019	<i>Data unavailable – Tri-Force collaboration – officers without county boundary</i>
2020	7
2021	7
2022	8
2023	9
2024	10

Caveats:

- FCI's listed above range in rank from PC-Insp and also Police Staff FCI's.
- FCI numbers listed are a mix of fully qualified FCI's alongside those in training.

2. How many live crash scenes were attended by your force annually from 2009 to the present, and of these, how many were attended by a Forensic Collision Investigator? Please can the data be provided annually.

FCI deployments are shown below.

3. How many serious injury road traffic collision cases were investigated by FCI's annually from 2009 to the present? Please can the data be broken down annually.

Please see table below.

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4. How many fatal road traffic collision cases were investigated by FCIs annually from 2009 to the present? Please can the data be broken down annually.

The table below will provide the answers to questions 3 and 4, with the caveats shown below.

Year	Total deployments	Fatal RTC's	Serious Injury RTC's	FCI Model
2009	Data unavailable			Wiltshire CIU – multi-skilled officers not only FCI
2010	93	35	58	
2011	102	35	67	
2012	73	27	46	
2013	77	28	49	
2014	66	28	38	Tri-Force collaboration for FCI with Avon & Somerset and GlosPol - borderless region
2015	57	32	25	
2016	59	29	30	
2017	52	27	25	
2018	55	35	20	
2019	67	27	40	Wiltshire standalone FCIU – introducing ISO standards for Forensic Science
2020	65	24	41	
2021	48	25	23	
2022	46	28	18	
2023	48	22	26	
2024 (to end April 24)	15	10	5	

Caveats;

- The data for each year is 1st Jan to 31st Dec.
- Serious Injury RTC deployments relate to those RTC's attended by an FCI, due to the suspected level of injury meeting the Service Level Agreement.
- The Service Level Agreement has changed many times over the 2009-2024 period due to changes in operating model and so care should be taken in comparing figures for Serious Injury RTC's for differing years.

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.

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

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(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,

Force 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

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.

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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