WILTSHIRE POLICE

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

Date: 15th May 2024 Ref: FOI 2024/510

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 14th May 2024 concerning facial recognition.

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 now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

Original request (under previous ref: FOI 2024/336) –

1. How many arrests have been made in the last five years in your police force area using facial recognition technology?
2. Could you provide a breakdown of the type of facial recognition used - whether it's RFR, LFR or OIFR.
3. Could you provide a breakdown of the ethnicity and sex of the people being arrested and how many of these led to a criminal charge.
4. Could you also provide a breakdown of the type of crime.
5. If you could break all of this down per year (calendar year if possible).

Follow-on request –

Could I just check – there's 3 types of facial recognition, do you know which of these are 'overt' and which are 'covert' or explain what you mean by this please?

Our response:

Your original request has already been responded to under reference FOI 2024/336 – however, in relation to your follow-on request from this, there is no information held.

This is because the FOI Act is all about information we hold, and we are not obligated to create information for the purpose of fulfilling an FOI request.

However, as part of our Section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance where possible – with the response provided to you previously under reference FOI 2024/336, please be aware that as mentioned to you, there have been zero arrests made over the time frame requested using facial recognition technology used in an overt capacity – however, with regards to the use of facial recognition technology used in a covert capacity, Wiltshire Police can neither confirm nor deny whether any information is held.

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.

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