

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXX – Via email



Police Headquarters

London Road

DEVIZES

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

Date: 7th May 2024

Our ref: 2024-412

Reply contact name:

Dear XXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 15th April 2024 regarding officer arrest procedures.

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.

Following receipt of your request, research was conducted by People Development at Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and I am able to respond as follows.

You wrote (and our response):

I'd like to see the instructions given to police officers regarding what procedures need to be followed when they make an arrest

- what they need to consider before making the arrest – Student Officers are given lessons around discretion and proportionality with regards to arresting people. This lesson includes considerations around making arrests and if it is the most suitable option based on the subject's circumstances. It encourages the Officers to make informed decisions and also consider alternatives to arrest. Throughout their training they are taught around safeguarding considerations when considering making arrests. They are also taught how the arrest must be proportionate, lawful, necessary, and non-discriminatory. The 'necessary' element of the arrest requires the officer to provide a 'necessity for arrest'. These necessity criteria are predefined in PACE and these are namely;

(a) to enable the name of the person in question to be ascertained.

(b) to enable the address of the person in question to be ascertained.

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

- (c) to prevent the person in question causing physical injury to himself or any other person or suffering physical injury;
- (d) to prevent the person in question causing loss or damage to property;
- (e) to prevent the person in question committing an offence against public decency
- (f) to prevent the person in question causing an unlawful obstruction of the highway;
- (g) to protect a child or other vulnerable person from the person in question.
- (h) to allow the prompt and effective investigation of the offence or of the conduct of the person in question.
- (i) To prevent the disappearance of that person.

- what they need to record in writing about these decisions – Student Officers are taught around the required documentation when making arrests. They are also taught to record what their rationale and decision-making process was at the time in order to make said arrest.

- what they need to say when making the arrest – Student Officers are taught to provide the grounds, caution and necessity for arrest as required.

- what do they need to consider before they can make this momentous decision – Please see answer to the first question which covers this answer.

- what do they need to record in writing about this decision – As above

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